

APPENDIX 1A
SCOPING DOCUMENT

SCOPING REPORT FOR THE LONG CANYON MINE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared for:

**Bureau of Land Management
Elko District Office**
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

Prepared by:

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JBR Project Number B.A12266.00

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LIST OF ACRONYM & ABBREVIATIONS

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
Newmont	Newmont Mining Corporation
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office

SCOPING REPORT FOR THE LONG CANYON MINE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the scoping process for the Long Canyon Mine Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It summarizes internal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) scoping; the input received from the public, agencies, and other interested parties; and describes the process used to identify issues raised and suggested alternatives to the Proposed Action.

Scoping is required as by part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the President's Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA, part of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (40 CFR 1500-1508). The purpose of scoping is to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed project and help the BLM identify issues and concerns to be considered in the EIS, along with other environmental review and consultation required (40 CFR 1501.7).

The BLM initiated scoping for the Long Canyon Mine Project on July 19, 2012, when a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register.

This report documents the issues raised during the public scoping period, as required by the BLM NEPA Handbook, H-1790-1.

1.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) proposes to construct and operate an open-pit gold mine, which would include an open pit, a heap leach pad, a waste rock dump, a tailings storage facility, and other ancillary facilities. The mine would be located on the eastern side of the Pequop Mountain Range, about 30 miles east of Wells, Nevada, and 32 miles west of West Wendover, Nevada, and five miles south of Interstate 80.

Currently, Frontier Development, a subsidiary of Newmont, is authorized to disturb up to 115 acres on BLM administered lands and 275 acres on private/split estate land for exploration purposes. The associated disturbance for the proposed operations would increase to 1,631 acres of public land, including 480 acres of split estate lands of federal surface and private subsurface. The projected life of the mine is eight to 14 years, including construction, operations, and closure and post-closure monitoring. An estimated annual workforce for operations would be approximately 300 to 500 people during the life of the mine.

The Long Canyon Mine is in conformance with the Wells Resource Management Plan and the proposal is in conformance with the approved decisions of the Resource Management Plan.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

1.2.1 Federal Purpose and Need

The BLM's purpose for the Proposed Action is to provide Newmont with an opportunity to exercise their mineral rights on specific public lands within the proposed project as authorized by the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended. BLM will decide whether to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the proposed project.

The BLM's need for the Proposed Action is to respond to the Plan of Operations Newmont submitted to BLM on March 22, 2012. BLM is required to respond to the Plan of Operations to conduct mining operations in compliance with the BLM's Surface Mining Regulations 43 CFR 3809 regulations, BLM's Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws, regulations (43 CFR 3715), 43 CFR 2800 and Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) regarding rights-of-way, NEPA, and other statutes. NEPA mandates that BLM evaluate or analyze the impacts of the proposed project and develop alternatives and mitigation, when necessary, to lessen any impacts to the resources. BLM must determine if the proposed project would create unnecessary or undue degradation to the public lands involved in the action.

1.2.2 Background and Proponent Objectives

The BLM is responsible for managing mineral rights and access on public lands as authorized by the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended. People with mining claims are entitled to reasonable access to explore for and develop mineral deposits on public domain lands that have not been withdrawn from mineral entry.

In order to use public lands managed by the BLM for locatable mineral exploration and development, Newmont must comply with the BLM's Surface Management Regulations, Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws Regulations, FLPMA, Nevada Mine Reclamation Law, and other applicable statutes.

Newmont's objectives for the proposed project are to conduct surface mining and ore processing from the proposed Long Canyon Mine to the optimal extent possible; and operate and reclaim the proposed facilities in a manner that is environmentally responsible, safe, and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

1.3 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

NEPA requires an environmental review of major federal actions that have the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment. One of the primary

purposes of NEPA is to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated into federal decision-making.

In accordance with NEPA, public comments were solicited during a scoping period from July 19, 2012 through September 4, 2012. The goal of public involvement is to gain public understanding and participation in the analysis and decision-making.

1.4 SCOPING PROCESS

1.4.1 Notice of Intent

The NOI to prepare an EIS was published on July 19, 2012, in the Federal Register, Volume 77, No. 139, pages 42505 and 42506 (Appendix A). The publication of the NOI initiated the formal scoping period. BLM decided the scoping period should be 45 days, longer than the minimum 30 days. The NOI complied with the requirements of 40 CFR 1508.22.

1.4.2 Project Website

A website for the project was launched concurrently with publication of the NOI in the Federal Register on July 19, 2012, and will remain active throughout the project. The site is available under NEPA Projects on the BLM Elko District webpage (http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html). Scoping information posted to the site includes the NOI, the press release, and the scoping letter that includes the project description, comment form, and two project figures including the project location map and the proposed facilities diagram.

1.4.3 Press Releases

A BLM press release was sent to the following news outlets:

Print Media

Winnemucca Publishing
The Nevada City Advocate
Tahoe Daily Tribune
Tonopah Times
Elko Daily Free Press
Ely News
The Record Courier (Carson City)
Las Vegas Sun
Lahontan Valley News
Daily Sparks Tribune

Mesquite Local News
Mesquite Citizen
The Desert Flyer (Cal Nev Ari)
Sacramento Bee
Travel Nevada
Northern Nevada Business Weekly
Weekly Seven (Las Vegas)
Nevada Appeal
Reno Gazette Journal
The Mirror (Pahrump)

Wells Progress
Humboldt Sun
Nevada Rancher
San Francisco Chronicle
Mason Valley News
Lincoln County Record
Las Vegas Review Journal
Progressive Rancher
Associated Press
Pahrump Valley Times

Radio

Talk Radio Pahrump
Radio One Network
The Radio Network
KVLV (Fallon)
KDSS (Ely)

Nevada Public Radio
Ruby Radio Corporation
Lotus Radio (Reno)
KWINA (Winnemucca)

CBS Radio
Elko Radio
KNPR (Nevada Public Radio)
KNYE (Pahrump)

Television

Cox TV Reno
KPVU TV (Pahrump)
KLAS (Las Vegas)
KRNK (Reno)
KRXI (Reno)

Entravision Nevada (Univision)
KVVU (Las Vegas)
KXNT (Las Vegas)
KTVN (Reno)

KENV TV (Elko)
KTNV (Las Vegas)
KOLO (Reno)
KNPB (Reno)

1.4.4 Scoping Mailing

A scoping letter (Appendix A) with information regarding participating in the public involvement process and attending the public scoping meetings was sent out that included a summary of the proposed project, a project map, and a scoping comment form. The press release and a project map were mailed to approximately 60 people, agencies, and groups on July 19, 2012. The mailing list for the scoping letter (Appendix B) was compiled by the BLM from those known or likely to be interested in the project and previous NEPA project mailing lists.

The scoping comment form included a place to indicate a desire to be on the mailing list. Respondents who requested to be placed on the list were added to the list.

1.4.5 Public Scoping Meetings

The following three public scoping meetings were held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.:

- Monday, August 6, Wendover Senior Center, 112 South Moriah Avenue, Wendover, Utah;
- Tuesday, August 7, Elko Convention Center, 700 Moran Way Elko, Nevada; and
- Wednesday, August 8, Wells City Hall, 525 6th Street Wells, Nevada.

The meetings were held in open house format. The attendees were provided with a copy of the scoping letter, project description, map, an explanation of the NEPA process, and the scoping comment form. An explanation of the sage-grouse habitat categories was also available as a handout.

Posters were used to depict the proposed project and to provide background information on environmental conditions (Appendix A). Representatives from the BLM, Newmont, and JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc. were present at each meeting to answer questions and discuss the project.

To help document the attendance at the meetings, people were asked to sign in, although it was not required. Table 1 shows the number of sign-ins at each scoping meeting. Appendix C contains the sign-in sheets.

Table 1 Scoping Meeting Sign-In

Date	Location	Number Signed In
August 6, 2012	Wendover, Utah	19
August 7, 2012	Elko, Nevada	13
August 8, 2012	Wells, Nevada	26

1.4.6 Cooperating Agencies

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) requested cooperating agency status. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between BLM and NDOW that outlines the responsibilities of NDOW as a cooperating agency and the environmental resources NDOW has an interest in within the project area.

1.4.7 Internal Scoping

An internal scoping meeting was held on August 8, 2012, in Elko, Nevada to identify issues from the BLM and the NDOW. Minutes from the meeting are in Appendix D. Issue statements compiled from the potential concerns in are included in Section 0.

1.4.8 Discussions with Tribes

Two Native American tribes have expressed an interest in the project, and one submitted comments during scoping.

2.0 COMMENT ANALYSIS

All public and various agency comments provided during the scoping process were compiled and categorized into a scoping comment log (Appendix D). Each submittal was assigned a comment identification number. This number allows analysts to link specific comments to original letters. The original comment submittals were scanned and placed in the project administrative record. All respondents' names and addresses (email address if the submission was an email) were recorded, and if requested, were added to the project mailing list. Analysts read and categorized comments using a comment code (Table 2) and a comment form. The comment log tracks all input and allows analysts to identify issues, to analyze the relationships among them, and create a summary of comments (Section 3.0).

It is important to recognize that the consideration of public comments is not a vote-counting process in which the outcome is determined by the majority opinion. Every comment and suggestion has value, whether expressed by one or a thousand respondents. All input is considered, and the BLM attempts to capture all substantive public concerns in the analysis process.

2.1 METHOD OF COMMENT COLLECTION

Commenters could submit comments in writing by leaving comments at public meetings or mailing comments in, or they could submit them electronically by email. No comment forms were submitted at the scoping meetings.

By the close of the 45-day scoping period (September 4, 2012), 31 responses had been received. A list of respondents is included in the scoping comment log, and copies of all letters, faxes, and e-mails received are included in Appendix D.

2.2 COMMENT CATEGORIZATION

Each comment letter was read and comments, concerns, and issues captured. Comments were given a code, which assigned them to an issue or resource (Table 2). In reference to the issue/resource categories, Section 3.0 presents an issues summary by environmental resource.

Table 2 **Comment Categories**

Code	General Issue Category
ALT	Alternatives to Proposed Action (development or additional)
AQ	Air Quality
CR	Cultural Resources
CUM	Cumulative Effects
ECO	General Ecological Resources

Code	General Issue Category
EJ	Environmental Justice
GEO	Geology and Minerals
HAZ	Hazardous and Solid Waste Materials
INF	Request for additional information
LST	Add to mailing list
LUA	Land Use and Access
MISC	Miscellaneous
NAC	Native American Concerns
NEG	General comment, negative, non-substantive
NS	Noise
OOS	Out of scope
PA	Proposed Action
PAL	Paleontological Resources
PN	Purpose of and Need for Project
POS	General comment, positive, non-substantive
PRO	Process (comments referring to scoping or NEPA process)
REC	Recreation
RNG	Livestock Grazing (including rangeland health, grazing, wild horses and burros)
SAF	Public Health and Safety
SD	Special Designations (including wilderness, WSAs, ACECs, DWMAs, etc.)
SOIL	Soil Resources
SOC	Socioeconomics
SSS	Special Status Species (plants and animals)
TRAN	Transportation
VEG	Vegetation (not including listed or sensitive species)
VR	Visual Resources
WHB	Wild Horses and Burros
WLF	Wildlife (not including listed or sensitive species) and Wildlife Habitat
WTR	Water Resources
RCL	Reclamation

3.0 SCOPING RESULTS

This section provides summaries of the substantive comments that were identified by internal and public scoping.

Issue statements were identified by reviewing the comments, paraphrased from the original content, and organized by resource category. Many of the comments identified similar issues. Similar comments were grouped together and then summarized. Each issue statement was then followed by the unique source citation(s). The minutes from the internal scoping meeting can be found in Appendix D along with the public scoping comments. Generally, local residents and businesses appeared to support the projects, while those further removed from the project area opposed it.

The majority of comments received concerned the impacts the project would have on the economy various communities and Elko County, water, wilderness characteristics, and wildlife.

The greatest number of public comments was from individuals followed by government affiliations.

3.1 ALTERNATIVES

An important component of scoping is to identify alternatives that must be analyzed in the EIS. Potential alternatives are either suggested in comments or are developed to produce different effects than the Proposed Action. A joint letter from the cities of Wendover, Utah and West Wendover, Nevada (the Cities) suggested an alternative that should be considered. The Cities' letter suggested the pit elevation be changed to provide a larger buffer from groundwater, moving the location of facilities further from surface water, and moving the mine's water supply well to at least four miles south of Johnson Springs.

Several letters suggested mitigation that should be considered. A suggestion was made to require complete backfilling of the open pit as part of the reclamation/closure plan. A request was made to reduce the amount of tree and other vegetation removal.

Many questions were raised about the details of the Proposed Action. These questions will be addressed through the project description in the EIS. A sampling of the questions includes:

- List of all equipment to be used;
- Permits needed (i.e. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, Clean Water Act 404, Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD));

- Type of claims held by Newmont;
- Accurate and complete description of disturbance and facilities;
- Water sources, pumping systems;
- Plans for use, storage, disposal, and spill prevention of hazardous materials and response;
- Plans to reduce emissions;
- Plans to protect flora and fauna;
- Plans/Agreements to protect water, water supplies, and water rights;
- Opportunities for wildlife enhancement;
- Newmont's commitment to funding the deer collaring project;
- Determining successful remediation;
- Mitigation and Monitoring (reclamation success, wildlife mortality, cultural resources, water quality, waste rock dump, discharge to waters of the United States, compliance) including what, when, where, and how, etc.;
- A process for approving and monitoring these drill sites, as well as the effective remediation of past drill sites;
- Reclamation/Restoration/Closure plan; and
- Location of ranch headquarters.

3.2 ANALYSIS ISSUES

Per the Council of Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (1501.7), it is through the scoping process that the BLM will (a) determine the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS and (b) identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues that are not significant. Section 3 summarizes issues raised during the scoping process. The EIS will narrow the discussion of these issues to a brief presentation in the EIS. In brief, the scoping comments must be reviewed to determine which issues are or are not significant in the context of NEPA and conducting an EIS. The list below summarizes the issues related to each resource and indicates whether it was an issue raised through internal scoping at the August 8, 2012 Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meeting, public comment (letter number), or both.

3.2.1 Air Quality

- How will gas, dust, particulate, or mercury emissions from all mines facilities, roads, and vehicles affect the environment from milling operations, construction, power generation, or transportation, exploratory drilling (12, 13, 18, and 34)?
- Will project operations require additional air permitting (Title V) (08/08/12 IDT)?
- Will the project meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (34)?
- What are the PSD increments in the area (34)?
- What Class I areas are within 100 kilometers (34)?
- What and how much greenhouse gas will be emitted (34)?
- What will the impact of climate change be on the project and other resources (34)?

3.2.2 Cultural Resources

- What are the impacts on known sites and others that may be found in the future (15 and 18)?
- What requirements for consultation with Nevada SHPO must be included (25)?
- What other mitigation needs to be applied to minimize or eliminate effects (12, 13, and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- What will be the impacts on the original Continental Railroad (13)?

3.2.3 Native American Concerns

- Consultation with the Western Shoshone people is required. Is the Treaty of Ruby Valley still applicable (2, 6, 21, and 34)?
- How will the impact known sacred and spiritual sites and food and medicine gathering locations (6)?

3.2.4 Recreation

- What will the impacts on recreation, particularly solitude, hunting, and non-motorized use (13 and 18)?

3.2.5 Wilderness Characteristics

- What wilderness characteristics occur and how will they be affects (12, 13, 18, and 20)?
- What mitigation can be included to ensure wilderness designation in the future is not foreclosed (20)?

3.2.6 Socioeconomic

- What will the project do for employment, high paying jobs, sales taxes, property taxes, health care benefits (2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 19, 30, and 31)?
- What will the impacts be on Wells, Wendover, West Wendover, the Wells Colony, and Elko County (21, 31, and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- Will the project spur growth in retail and health care, and diversify the economic base (7, 10, and 21)?
- Will issues with water supply be an economic burden on Wendover and West Wendover (21 and 31)?
- Will the effects on scenic quality adversely affect the economic viability of the area (18)?
- Will the project result in Wendover and West Wendover having to repay USDA loans for developing the water supply back before previously anticipated (21)?
- What are the reclamation bonding requirements (34)?
- What impacts could necessitate a long-term trust fund (34)?
- What financial assurance is there that all of the post-closure activities will be kept current as conditions change (34)?

3.2.7 Lands and Realty

- Does the proposed infrastructure (transmission lines, pipelines, roads, corridors) meet BLM requirements for right-of-way (08/08/12 IDT)?
- Can existing rights-of-way be used (08/08/12 IDT)?

3.2.8 Wildlife

- How will noise and human activities affect wildlife (12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 26)?
- What are impacts on species of concern (mule deer) and is there additional mitigation needed to minimize or eliminate impacts (20, 26, and 08/08/ IDT)?
- How will the project affect migration patterns (12, 13, 18, and 26)?
- What are the impacts from disturbance, waste rock, heap leach, and tailings (18)?
- What are the impacts on mule deer winter range (23 and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- How will potential changes in water affect wildlife (12 and 13)?

3.2.9 Special Status Species (including Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive)

- What are the impacts on special status species (08/08/12 IDT)?
- What are impacts on sage grouse, sage grouse leks from noise, snails, bats, pygmy rabbits, and is there additional mitigation needed to minimize or eliminate impacts (18, 20, 26, and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- What will be the impact on buckwheat, used by sensitive butterflies (08/08/12 IDT)?

3.2.10 Livestock Grazing

- How will the project affect the base property for the permittee (08/08/12 IDT)?
- How many AUMs will not be available because of the mine facilities (34 and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- What range improvements will be affected by taking the land out of production (08/08/12 IDT)?
- Will changes result in a loss of investment for the permittee (08/08/12 IDT)?

3.2.11 Vegetation

- Will there be impacts on the bark beetle infestation (08/08/12 IDT)?
- Will riparian vegetation be affected by mine water use (14 and 18)?
- Will wetlands be affected (34)?

3.2.12 Soils

- What erosion and sedimentation is expected (14, 34, and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- Will reclamation be successful (14 and 18)?

3.2.13 Transportation

- Will relocating road affect access to specific areas (23)?
- Are the interchanges on the interstate adequate to accommodate additional mine-related traffic (23)?
- Can the underpass for State Road 233 accommodate mine-related equipment (23)?

3.2.14 Water

- Will the pit intercept groundwater (34)?
- Will the water be polluted (1, 8, and 08/08/12 IDT)?

- Will groundwater be contaminated (5, 8, 34, and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- Will alternate source provide high quality drinking water (8, 16, 21, and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- How effective are BMPs at protecting water? How will pumping large quantities of water affect Johnson Spring (8 and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- Does the water meet NDEP's safe drinking water standards (8 and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- Can advanced mitigation be implemented to avoid habitat losses (34)?
- What will the post-closure groundwater elevation recovery be (34)?
- Is there a potential for perched water or other shallow aquifers to be intercepted (34)?
- Will any of the components be within the 25- or 100-year floodplain (34)?
- Will the off-site ore processing affect water (34)?

3.2.15 Water Rights

- Who has water rights currently and what will be the effect on water rights (27)?

3.2.16 Hazardous Materials and Public Safety

- What is Newmont's record on pollution (14)?
- What are the potential impacts of failure of containment systems and are the impacts irreversible (34)?

3.2.17 Visual Resources

- What will be the impacts on scenic quality (18 and 08/08/12 IDT)?
- The project may impact night skies in the area (22).

3.2.18 Land Use and Access

- Are there special uses that may be displaced (34)?

3.2.19 Environmental Justice

- Are there any low income or minority populations that will be disproportionately affected?

APPENDIX A

Notice of Intent, Press Release, Scoping Letter, and Scoping Handouts



Comments and objections submitted to this notice will not be made available for public inspection and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be released under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Dated: July 13, 2012.

Richard U. Rodriguez,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.

(FR Doc. 2012-17497 Filed 7-18-12; 8:45 am)

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5602-N-05]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request Notice of Application for Designation as a Single Family Foreclosure Commissioner

AGENCY: Office of the General Counsel, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* September 17, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410-0500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sherece Tolbert, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Single Family Mortgage Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 9240, Washington, DC 20410-0500, telephone (202-708-0080) (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is submitting the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to

be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Notice of Application for Designation as a Single Family Foreclosure Commissioner (SF Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994).

OMB Control Number, if applicable: 2510-0012.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: Under the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, HUD may exercise a nonjudicial Power of Sale of single family HUD-held mortgages and may appoint Foreclosure Commissioners to do this. HUD needs the Notice and resulting applications for compliance with the Act's requirements that commissioners be qualified. Most respondents will be attorneys, but anyone may apply.

Agency form numbers, if applicable: None.

Members of affected public: Business or Other For-Profit and Individuals or Households.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:

Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Hours per response	Total burden hours
30	1	.5	15

Status of the proposed information collection: Reinstatement of collection.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: July 16, 2012.

Camille E. Acevedo,

Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations.

(FR Doc. 2012-17637 Filed 7-18-12; 8:45 am)

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVE03000 L51100000.GN0000. LVEMF1201550.241A; NVN-91032; MO# 4500035419; TAS: 14X5017]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Long Canyon Mine Project, Elko County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wells Field Office, Elko, Nevada,

intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Long Canyon Mine, and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until September 4, 2012. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: www.blm.gov/rv3c. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Long Canyon Mine Project by any of the following methods:

• **Email:** BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov.

• **Fax:** 775-753-0385.

• **Mail:** BLM Elko District Office, Wells Field Office, Attn: Whitney Wirthlin, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Wells Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Whitney Wirthlin, project lead, telephone: 775-753-0342; email: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) proposes to construct and operate an open-pit gold mining operation, which would include one open pit, a heap leach pad, one waste rock dump, a tailings storage facility, and other ancillary facilities. The mine would be located on the eastern side of the Pequop Mountain Range, about 30 miles east of Wells, Nevada, and 32 miles west of West Wendover, Nevada, and 5 miles south of Interstate 80. Currently, Fronteer Development, a subsidiary of Newmont, is authorized to disturb up to 113 acres for exploration purposes. The associated disturbance for the proposed operations would increase to 1,631 acres of public land, including 480 acres of split estate lands of Federal surface and private subsurface. The projected life of the mine is 8 to 14 years, including construction, operations, and closure and post-closure monitoring. An estimated annual workforce for operations would be approximately 300 to 500 people during the life of the mine.

Fronteer is currently conducting exploration activities in this area that were analyzed in two environmental assessments (EA), the *NewWest Gold USA Inc. Long Canyon Exploration Project* (July 2008, EA No. BLM/EK/PL-2008/011) and *Fronteer Development (USA) Inc. Expanded Long Canyon Exploration Project* (June 2011, DOI-BLM-NV-N030-2011-00001-EA). The Long Canyon Mine is in conformance with the Wells Resource Management

Plan (RMP) and the proposal is in conformance with the approved decisions of the RMP.

The issues identified during scoping will be used to develop a range of alternatives, including a no-action alternative. Mitigation measures will be considered to minimize environmental impacts and to ensure the proposed action does not result in unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues:

(a) Potential effects to archaeological resources in the area;

(b) Potential effects to greater sage-grouse posed by the proximity to an active sage-grouse lek;

(c) Potential effects to viewshed in and around areas of Visual Resources Management Classes I through IV;

(d) Potential impacts to the water supply of Wendover, Utah, and West Wendover, Nevada; and

(e) Potential effects to the Area 7 mule deer herd and the mule deer migration corridor associated with the herd. The proposed project area is located in a mule deer migration corridor.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to help fulfill the public involvement process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501 and 43 CFR 3809.

Kenneth E. Miller,

District Manager, Elko District Office.

(FR Doc. 2012-17583 Filed 7-18-12; 8:45 am)

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCA 942000 L57000000 BX0300]

Filing of Plats of Survey: California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey of lands described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the Bureau of Land Management California State Office, Sacramento, California, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the plats may be obtained from the California State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, upon required payment.

Protest: A person or party who wishes to protest a survey must file a notice that they wish to protest with the California State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chief, Branch of Geographic Services, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1623, Sacramento, California 95825, (916) 978-4310.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These surveys were executed to meet the administrative needs of various federal agencies; the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs or Bureau of Reclamation. The lands surveyed are:

Mount Diablo Meridian, California

T. 4 S., R. 29 E., dependent resurvey and subdivision of section accepted June 8, 2012.

T. 45 N., R. 16 E., corrective resurvey and dependent resurvey accepted June 13, 2012.

T. 31 S., R. 32 E., dependent resurvey and metes-and-bounds survey accepted June 15, 2012.

T. 19 S., R. 12 E., dependent resurvey and subdivision accepted June 20, 2012.

Authority: 43 U.S.C., Chapter 3.

Dated: July 12, 2012

Roger E. Blouch,

Acting Chief Cadastral Surveyor, California.

(FR Doc. 2012-17583 Filed 7-18-12; 8:45 am)

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

BLM Nevada News

ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 2012-056

FOR RELEASE: July 19, 2012

CONTACT: Lesli Ellis, (775) 753-0386, or email: lellis@blm.gov

BLM begins EIS for Proposed Long Canyon Mine

ELKO, Nev. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Newmont Mining Corporation's (Newmont) proposed Long Canyon open-pit gold mine to be located approximately 30 miles east of Wells, in Elko County, Nev. The notice opens a 45-day public scoping period that will end Sept. 3, 2012.

The public is being asked to identify issues relevant to Newmont's proposal to construct and operate the Long Canyon Mine Project, which would include one open pit, a heap leach pad, one waste rock dump, a tailings storage facility and other ancillary facilities. The mine would be located on the eastern side of the Pequop Mountain Range, about 30 miles east of Wells, Nev., 32 miles west of West Wendover, Nev., and five miles south of Interstate 80. The proposed operations would affect 1,631 acres of public land, including 480 acres of split-estate lands.

The projected mine life is 8 to 14 years, including construction, operations, closure, and post-closure monitoring. The mine is expected to create approximately 300 to 500 jobs during the life of the mine.

Public Scoping meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations from 6 to 8 p.m.:

August 6

Wendover Senior Center (This meeting is Mountain Standard Time)

112 South Moriah Avenue
Wendover, Utah

August 7

Elko Convention Center

700 Moran Way
Elko, Nev.

August 8

Wells City Hall

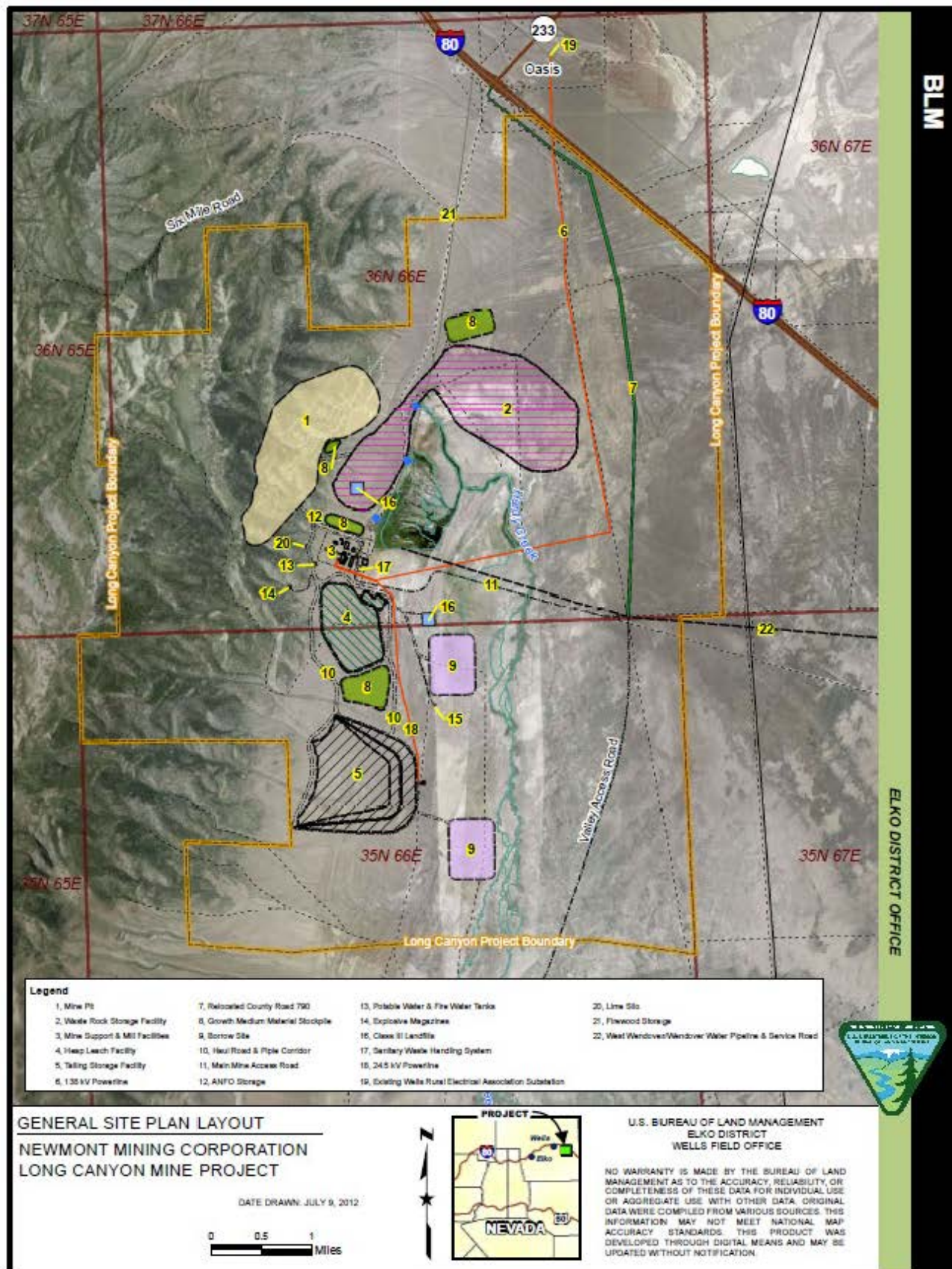
525 6th Street
Wells, Nev.

Interested individuals should address written comments to the BLM Elko District Office, Wells Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, Attn: Whitney Wirthlin, or fax at (775) 753-0385. Comments may also be submitted to the project e-mail address: LongCanyonMine@blm.gov.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Additional information is available online at: www.blm.gov/rv5c.

For more information, contact Whitney Wirthlin, Wells Field Office Geologist, at (775) 753-0342.

-BLM-





Long Canyon Mine Project Environmental Impact Statement



NEPA PROCESS

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires an environmental review of major Federal actions that have the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The purpose of NEPA is to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated into Federal decision-making. The two primary objectives of NEPA are: (1) Agencies must have available and fully consider detailed information regarding environmental effects at the time a decision is made; and (2) Agencies must make the same information available to interested and/or affected persons, agencies and organizations before decisions are made and before actions are taken. In some instances, in order to comply with NEPA, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared in order to analyze the environmental effects of a proposed action.

Why Does NEPA apply to the Long Canyon Mine Project?

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) determined that approval of this proposal is a major federal action subject to the requirements of NEPA.

What are the NEPA Process Steps for the Long Canyon Mine Project?

- 1) Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) submitted a draft Plan of Operation for the proposed Long Canyon Mine Project (Project) to the BLM Wells Field Office.
- 2) The BLM determined that the proposed Project could have a significant impact on the environment, and an EIS must be prepared in order to comply with NEPA requirements.
- 3) The EIS process commenced on July 19, 2012, with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register. Notifications were also published in local newspapers, and were sent via direct mailings to people and agencies on an initial EIS mailing list.
- 4) The publication of the NOI began a 45-day public scoping period during which three public meetings/open houses are being held within proximity to the Project Area. The open houses include displays explaining the Project. The meetings are being held as follows: August 6, Wendover Senior Center; August 7, Elko Convention Center; and August 8, Wells City Hall. To be the most helpful, public scoping comments should be submitted to BLM by September 4, 2012. Please see the "Whom Can I Contact if I Have Any Questions?" section at the end of this document for details.
- 5) Public scoping comments can be left at one of the open houses, sent via U.S. Mail, or submitted electronically to LongCanyonMine@blm.gov.
- 6) This input will be used by the BLM to develop a range of alternatives, issues, and indicators to be used in the environmental analysis. A Scoping Summary Report will be prepared describing: the public scoping input, major issues to be evaluated in the analysis, and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS. This document will be made available to the public via posting on the Internet. Persons who commented during scoping will be included on the EIS mailing list for future actions and notices.
- 7) Newmont and its contractors have conducted Baseline Environmental Studies which identify existing conditions in the Project Study Area. The BLM will evaluate potential environmental effects on a wide range of environmental and social resources. Effects will be identified for the individual components of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives. The cumulative effects of the Project, when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, will also be evaluated. Written descriptions of the

*Long Canyon Mine Project NEPA Process
Page 1*

Proposed Action and alternatives, required Agency actions, baseline conditions, environmental impacts, mitigation measures to reduce impacts, and consultation and coordination efforts will be included in the Draft EIS. The BLM currently estimates the Draft EIS will be completed in the summer or fall of 2013, subject to change.

- 8) When the Draft EIS is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Federal Register to begin a 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIS. Copies of the Draft EIS will be made available through direct mailings to the EIS mailing list and via posting on the Internet. The NOA will also be published in local newspapers surrounding the proposed Project Area. During this period, public meetings will be held on the Draft EIS in the same cities and towns as the meetings held during the scoping process.
- 9) The BLM will review comments on the Draft EIS received from other agencies and the public and prepare the Final EIS. The BLM will incorporate substantive comments, changes, corrections, and revisions into the Final EIS. The Final EIS will identify the alternative selected by the BLM after consideration of all public input. The BLM currently estimates the Final EIS will be completed in the spring or summer of 2014, subject to change.
- 10) Copies of the Final EIS will be made available through direct mailings and via posting on the Internet. A 30-day public availability period will begin with publication of a NOA in the Federal Register and local newspapers. During the public availability period, the public can provide comments, if any, on the Final EIS.
- 11) The BLM and any cooperating agencies will consider information contained in the Final EIS, and public comments received during the availability period that identify any significant issues not previously addressed or introducing new significant information. The BLM Elko District Office will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) related to approval of the Project and its components under BLM jurisdiction. The ROD will discuss the agency selected alternative, the environmentally preferable alternative, and any monitoring and mitigation conditions required as part of the decisions. The BLM currently estimates the ROD will be completed in the summer of 2014, subject to change.
- 12) The agency ROD will be made available to the public through direct mailings and posting on the Internet. A 30-day appeal period for the ROD will commence with publication of a NOA of the ROD in local newspapers. Members of the public aggrieved by the decisions in the ROD can file written appeal statements with the BLM within the appeal periods. Consideration of any appeals will follow specific policies and procedures of the BLM and Department of the Interior.
- 13) Following the close of the ROD appeal period and completion of any subsequent appeal process, the BLM will take actions as appropriate on their decisions. The earliest this would likely occur is summer or fall of 2014, subject to change.

How Can I Stay Involved?

Attend a scoping meeting in your area. Be sure to add your name to the Project mailing list. Fill out a comment sheet and return it to the BLM (instructions can be found on the comment sheet).

Whom Can I Contact if I Have Any Questions?

Should you have any questions, please contact: Whitney Wirthlin, Bureau of Land Management, Wells Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801, Attn: Long Canyon EIS. Email: wwirthlin@blm.gov, Tel: (775) 753-0358.



Long Canyon Mine Project Environmental Impact Statement



BLM SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) believes that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

Where to provide comments: You can hand this form in at a public scoping meeting or mail it in using the address on the reverse. **Comments can also be submitted via email to the following email address: LongCanyonMine@blm.gov.**

Name _____ County _____

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Date _____ Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

☐ Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project.

The draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Elko District Office website. You will be notified when it is available.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Fold in thirds so address (on reverse) is showing, add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail, **postmarked by September 4, 2012.**

Comments, including names, street addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers (if provided) of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Ely Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Long Canyon Mine EIS
c/o Whitney Withlin
Bureau of Land Management
Elko District Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

Place
Stamp
Here

From:

Thank you for your comment!

To return via mail:

Fold in thirds so address (above) is showing,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.

Please postmark by: *September 4, 2012*

Comment continued:

APPENDIX B

Scoping Mailing List

Table B-1 shows the agencies, organizations, and individuals who were sent the scoping announcement and project map (see **Appendix A**).

Table B-1 Scoping Mailing List

Agency/Organization	Addressee
Dixie Valley Cattle LLC	C/O Randy Stowell
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Attn: State Supervisor
Resource Concepts, Inc	John L. McLain
Nevada Department of Wildlife	Attn: Alan Jenne
Western Watersheds Project	Attn: Katie Fite
Nevada Cattlemen's Association	
Elko County	Board of County Commissioners
Natural Resources Management Advisory Commission	Mr. Scott R. Brown
Sustainable Grazing Coalition	Attn: Richard A. Orr
Callan W. Payton	
Great Basin Mine Watch	Dr. Tom Myers
Egbert Livestock LLC	C/O Scott Egbert
Von Sorensen	
Kem Kough, Pequop Ranch	
City of Wells	Attn: Jolene Supp
Great Basin Resource Watch	
Natural Resource Conservation Service	
Senator Harry Reid	Bruce Thompson Courthouse and Federal Building
Mr. Paul Bottari	
Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Ms. Karen Boegger
Nevada State Clearinghouse, Division of Administration	Attn: Heather Elliott
Roy And Glorene Kelly	
NDEP-BMRR	Attn: Shane Martin
Nevada Division of Water Resources	Attn: Hamilton Reed
City of Wendover	Attn: Glenn Wadsworth
City of West Wendover	Attn: Chris Melville
Center For Biological Diversity	Rob Mrowka
Karen Klitz	
Senator Dean Heller	
Congressman Mark Amodei	
Wells Progress	
Western Mining Action Project	Mr. Roger Flynn
Oregon-California Trail Association	
Kathleen R. Gregg	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9	Attn: Jeanne Geselbracht
Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Pat Stevens
Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Chairman Bryan Cassadore
Battle Mountain Band Council	Luara Schmidt

Agency/Organization	Addressee
Battle Mountain Band Council	Chairman Greg Holley
Wells Band Council	Aurora Aboite
Wells Band Council	Chairwoman Paula Salazar
Elko Band Council	Alfreda Jake
Elko Band Council	Chairman Gerald Temoke
Confederate Tribes of The Goshute Indian Reservation	Madeline Greymountain
Confederate Tribes of The Goshute Indian Reservation	Chairman Ed Naranjo
Western Shoshone Committee	Naomi Mason
Western Shoshone Committee	Ms. Reynaulda Taylor
Shoshone Paiute Tribes of The Duck Valley Indian Reservation	Ted Howard
Shoshone Paiute Tribes of The Duck Valley Indian Reservation	Chairman Terry Gibson
Ely Shoshone Tribe	Mark Richards
Ely Shoshone Tribe	Chairman Alvin Marques
Yomba Shoshone Tribe	Teola Brady
Yomba Shoshone Tribe	Chairman David Smith
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Maurice Frank Churchill
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Chairwoman Virginia Sanchez
South Fork Band Council	Tanya Reynolds
South Fork Band Council	Chairman Brandon Reynolds
Bureau of Indian Affairs (Eastern Nevada Agency)	Superintendent Joe Mcdade
Western Shoshone Descendents of Big Smoky	Mr. Felix Ike
Western Shoshone Defense Project	Ms. Carrie Dann

APPENDIX C

Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheets



Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Monday, August 6, 2012

Wendover Senior Center/Community Building
112 South Moriah Avenue, Wendover, UT 84083



SIGN-IN SHEET

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Marks Christensen Kerry Robinson	P.O. Box 1397 Wendover, UT		X			
Tena Campbell	154 E 1400 S, P.O. Box 1794020	templebell@comcast.net	X		X	
Scott Brown	4218 Ruby Vista Dr #100	scott-brown@randm.com	X			
Ed Hlatka	750 Alpine Dr Spring Creek UT 89515	ed_hlatka@earthlink.net	X			
David Anderson	P.O. Box 3411		X			
SHAWN GREGORY	P.O. Box 3171 NW 888 S Wendover, UT	S.gregory87@yahoo.com	X		X	
JOHNNY GORUM / wife						
KAREN Shepherd	P.O. Box 1061	shvine1282000@yahoo.com	X		X	
John Spillman		jspillman@wendoverfun.com			X	
GARY A KIRKMAN	P.O. Box 3970	garyk@wendoverfun.com	X		X	

Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Monday, August 6, 2012

Wendover Senior Center/Community Building
112 South Moriah Avenue, Wendover, UT 84083



SIGN-IN SHEET

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Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Frank Sharg	P.O. Box 4372		X			
Doug Carriaga	Box 466 Panguitch, UT 84050	dcarriaga@blm.gov				
Mike Crawford	Box 1671 Wendover, UT 84083	Crawford.mike@blm.gov	X			
Gloria Wadsworth	Box 83, Wendover, UT 84083	gloriawadsworth@blm.gov		X		X
Donna Kouch	P.O. Box 2050	dkouch@blm.gov		X		
Jammar Applewhite	P.O. Box 1391 Wendover, UT 84083	jammarapplewhite@blm.gov	X			

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting
Monday, August 6, 2012
Wendover Senior Center/Community Building
112 South Moriah Avenue, Wendover, UT 84083



Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

[illegible]



Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Elko Convention Center

700 Moren Way, Elko, Nevada 89801



SIGN-IN SHEET

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Mary Korgi/Newmont	1655 Mt City Hwy Elko	Mary.Korgi@ Newmont.com		✓		✓
John Andrus	123 Deerbrook Dr Spring Creek	John_andrus @cashmanequip.net	✓		✓	
Eid Hintz	750 Alpine Dr Spring Creek, NV 89815	ed.hintz@ cashmanequip.net	✓			
Cashman Equipment						
R. Jeff Williams						
Elko Co. Comm.						
Elko District	26 South Main Suite 200, Elko, NV 89801	ed.hintz@ cashmanequip.net	✓		✓	



Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Elko Convention Center

700 Moren Way, Elko, Nevada 89801



SIGN-IN SHEET

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Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Paul Burton / Mary Burton	692 SPRING CREEK PKY SPRING CREEK 89816			X		X
MIKE CREEK	1393 ROYAL CREST ELKO, NV 89801					
ROSE CREEK	1393 Royal Crest Dr. Elko, NV 89801			X		X
Taylor Creek						
Brian Arthur	380 Poplar Drive Elko, NV 89801			X		X

Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Elko Convention Center

700 Moren Way, Elko, Nevada 89801



SIGN-IN SHEET

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Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
John Raschke Elko Daily Free Press		jrascke@elkodaily.com	✓		✓	
ROGER MACGREGOR - NEWMONT		ROGER.MACGREGOR@NEWMONT.COM	✓		✓	
Kays Munzing -		Kelko@frontiernet.net		✓		✓



Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Wells City Hall

525 6th Street, Wells, Nevada 89835



SIGN-IN SHEET

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Jolene Supp City of Wells	P.O. Box 366	wells-city-hall@Frontier.com	X		X	
Vernon Stevens	P.O. Box 487			X		X
Paul Butler	P.O. Box 368	paul@butterflyreality.com				
Paul A. Ford	P.O. Box 368	paul@butterflyreality.com	X			
Donovan Gross	3949 S. 700 E. STE 200, SLC, UT 84102	donovan.gross@HOEIDA.com		X		X



Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Wells City Hall

525 6th Street, Wells, Nevada 89835



SIGN-IN SHEET

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Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Kenny Huff / Mayor Wells	P.O. Box 765	khuuff@wellsnv.com	X		X	
Terry McIntyre - Gaymont	PO Box 2520	tmcentyre@gaymont.com	✓		✓	
Ray Riotte	P.O. Box 3249 WENDOVER, 89833		✓		✓	
KARI HUEBNER / NDOW	100 YOUTH CENTER ROAD ELKO, NV 89801	khuebner@ndow.org	✓		✓	
Kenny McIntyre - Gaymont	Box 145 Wells NV 89835	TMH015@wellsnv.com	✓		X	
Quida McIntyre						



Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Wells City Hall

525 6th Street, Wells, Nevada 89835



SIGN-IN SHEET

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Beth Woodbury <i>Thruwells Progress</i>	1053 Idaho - Elko	<i>editor@wellprogress.com</i>	X			X
Denise Payton <i>for</i> Caitlin Payton	1067 Box 60 Wells	<i>denise.payton@blm.gov</i>	X		X	
Albert K. Supt	Box 487		X			
JEFFREY JOYCE	P.O. Box 189 WELLS NV 89835	<i>joyce@wellprogress.com</i>	X		X	
BRUCE WIDMER	Box 603 Wells 89835		X			



Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Wells City Hall

525 6th Street, Wells, Nevada 89835



SIGN-IN SHEET

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Doug Gadd	Box 53	nevadawells@hotmail.com			X	
Jim Williams	Box 714	NET.NET JWilliams@Frontier	✓			X
Ellen Lee Conner	Box 158	Wells70@gmail.com	✓			
Matt Holford	Box 615	Wells@Frontier WellsNEVADA.com	X		X	
Meghan Brown	905 Rail Road St Suite 104D	Meghan.browne@mail.nvaze.gov	X			



Bureau of Land Management,
Elko District Office

Long Canyon Project EIS

Public Scoping Meeting
Wednesday, August 8, 2012
Wells City Hall
525 6th Street, Wells, Nevada 89835



SIGN-IN SHEET

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

Please Print

NAME/REPRESENTING	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADD TO PROJECT MAILING LIST?		REQUEST ELECTRONIC COPY OF EIS?	
			YES	NO	YES	NO
Blupe Quintana	P.O. Box 43					
Chris Coffey						
Mine Repairs						

APPENDIX D

Public Comments and Internal Scoping Meeting Minutes

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1 Public, Jean

From: usacitizen1 usacitizen1 [<mailto:usacitizen1@live.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 3:18 PM
To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine; foe@foe.org; info@emagazine.com
Cc: americanvoices@mail.house.gov; comments@whitehouse.gov;
speakerboehner@mail.house.gov; sf.nancy@mail.house.gov; letters@newsweek.com
Subject: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER

DENY THIS APPLICATION. NEWMONT HAS A POLLUTION RECORD ALL OVER THIS WORLD OF POLLUTING HORRIBLY AND STIFFING AND SCAMMING THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE NI AN AREA. THE WILD HORSES NEED THIS LAND. THE WATER WILL BE POLLUTED WITH TOXIC CHEMICASL SO THAT THIS LAND WILL BE SCORCHED DESTROYED LAND. DENY THIS APPLICATION. AMERICA DOES NOT NEED TO LET IN THIS TOXIC POLLUTER. BLM IS A VICIOUS, VENA; AGENCY WHERE EMPLOYEES TAKE BRIBES AND STILL WORK THERE. WE DO NOT WANT BLM IN CHARGE OF OIUR NATIONAL LAND,THIS GOVT AGENCY, BLM, IS A HORROR THAT NEEDS TO BE SHUT DOWN. ITS MANAGEMENT IS ATROCIOUS AND A LEGACY OF THE SCUM BUSH CHENEY. THIS COMMENT IS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. JEAN PUBLIC

2 Gilligan, Todd

From: Todd Gilligan [mailto:Todd_Gilligan@cashmanequipment.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2012 4:26 PM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: Newmont Long Canyon Mine

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to inform the BLM that I am in support of the development of the Newmont Long Canyon mining operation located in Elko County.

Newmont has continued over the years to show both the community and regulatory agencies that they are an outstanding employer and steward to the community and environment as a whole. This expansion will allow for additional high paying jobs in a county that is providing opportunity for many Nevada families, plus it will bring badly needed property/ mineral/ use and sales taxes to the county, which will help ensure a steady income to meet the needs of its residents.

We have seen also that Newmont is deeply concerned about the environment from their existing operations at other Nevada mine sites, so I am sure that this concern will translate once again into the proper actions necessary to minimize and avoid any environmental impacts regarding this project.

Newmont is a great company and I am glad to hear that they are pursuing a development plan that will help Nevada continue to be a great place to live. Once again, I fully support the development of the Newmont Long Canyon mine and look forward to seeing this project move ahead in the near future.

Todd Gilligan

7098 Fire Opal Drive

Las Vegas, NV 89131

3 Elko County - Sheriff - Pitts, Jim

From: James Pitts [<mailto:jpitts@elkocountynv.net>]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 8:09 AM
To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine
Subject: Long Canyon project

Whitney Wirthlin

sorry I missed your meeting on Tuesday but this was our annual National Night Out held the first Tuesday of August every year. I just wanted to say that we support this project in every way it will be good for the county and the city of Wells. as a resident of Elko for over 33 years and a law enforcement officer for 30 of those 33 years I have see what mining has done for this community and “mining works” for the county.

Jim Pitts
Sheriff

775.777.2501
jpitts@elkocountynv.net

Our Mission is to proactively build and strengthen community partnerships and reduce the fear of crime through the delivery of high quality, efficient and consistent services to all county businesses, residents and visitors in a professional manner.

4 Elko County Commissioners - Williams, Jeff



Elko County Board of Commissioners

540 Court Street, Suite 101 • Elko, Nevada 89801
775-738-5398 Phone • 775-753-8535 Fax

2012 AUG 17 AM 10:23

COMMISSIONERS

Demar Dahl
Glen G. Guttry
Charlie L. Myers
Warren Russell
R. Jeff Williams

ELKO COUNTY MANAGER
Robert K. Stokes

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Michele A. Petty

August 10, 2012

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Elko District Office
Attn: Whitney Wirthlin
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Re: Long Canyon Project

Ms. Wirthlin:

The Elko County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the information provided on the proposed open pit gold mining operation known as the **Long Canyon Project**. The Board supports this project and the social and economic benefits it will bring to Elko County.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Rob Stokes, Elko County Manager at (775)738-5398.

Respectfully,

R. Jeff Williams, Chairman
Elko County Board of Commissioners

ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE	
DM	
ADM	
PLAN/NEPA	
LAW ENF	
TUSCARORA F.O.	
WELLS E.O.	/
SUPPORT SRV.	
FIRE	
OPERATIONS	
CA. TRAIL	
PUBLIC AFFAIRS	
Wirthlin	

5 Hartman, Pierre

From: Pierre Hartman [<mailto:voldeciel@bak.rr.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 11:16 AM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Cc: Jon Hays

Subject: Long Canyon Project

I've hiked and ridden in the area in past years, and it is a wonderful place, aside from the issue of precious ground water.

1. Mining, especially for gold, is just not as important as preserving ground water from contamination.
2. Mining is responsible for so much despoilation in the west; no more should be allowed.
3. The ground water must not be exposed to the inevitable and harmful effects of gold mining, spoiling the natural environment for the fauna and flora of the region---and that includes human beings, as well as their stock.

--Pierre Hartman,

Tehachapi, CA 93561

6 Creek, Michel W.

From: Mike Creek [<mailto:mwcreek@frontiernet.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 8:08 PM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: Long Canyon Mine Comments

August 29, 2012

Long Canyon Mine EIS
c/o Whitney Wirthlin
Bureau of Land Management
Elko District Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Ms. Writhing,

As a resident of Elko County who participated in the Public Scoping Meeting of August 7th, 2012, I ask to be included in future communications regarding this project. I believe and ask the BLM that the positive economic benefits of this project to the residents of the surrounding communities, counties, states, and the rest of the country should be evaluated and published. As you know, the project will provide additional jobs locally and for the region at a time when other areas of the country are struggling to create employment. I also request that BLM efficiently move this project through the EIS process so the significant benefits of this project, including employment of 300 to 400 people are realized by 2015.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Michel W. Creek
1393 Royal Crest Dr.
Elko, NV 89801

7 Silver Sage Senior Citizens Center - Riddle, Jane

From: Wells Senior Center [<mailto:wellsseniorcenter@frontier.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 4:07 PM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: Attn Whitney Wirthlin

This is a letter of support for Newmont. Please contact me should you want any other information.

Sincerely,
Janet Riddle, Director
Silver Sage Senior Center
P.O. Box 136
Wells, Nevada 89835
775-752-3280
775-752-3280

Silver Sage Senior Citizens Center
P.O. Box 136/213 First Street
Wells, Nevada 89835

BLM Elko District Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

This letter is being written in support of Newmont Mining Corporation of Elko. This company is a valued member of the greater community of Elko County. They are generous in contributing to various entities. They provide well-paying jobs to members of the community, provide their employees with various healthcare benefits, and are just a wonderful company to have here.

Most sincerely,

Janet Riddle, Director
Silver Sage Senior Citizens Center
JR:gc

8 City of West Wendover, City of Wendover - Mayors

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
2012 AUG 29 PM 1:23

August 27, 2012

Ms. Whitney Wirthlin
BLM Elko District Office
Wells Field Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

RE: Proposed Long Canyon Mine Plan of Operation

Dear Ms. Wirthlin:

West Wendover, Nevada and Wendover, Utah (Cities) have reviewed the applicant's proposed Plan of Operation (PoO) through a joint committee formed to evaluate the potential impacts of the Long Canyon Project on water resources in the Goshute Valley. The Cities have a keen interest in protecting these water resources because of the spring and six wells on which they rely for drinking water. The oldest source, Johnson Spring, provided respite to travelers on the great migration west, supplied water to the military airfield where crews trained for the first use of atomic weapons, and has most likely flowed continuously since geologic forces separated the heavily faulted bedrock of the Pequop Mountains from the valley floor.

Johnson Spring is a rarity. It has been categorized by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) as a groundwater source, i.e. not under the influence of surface water. Notably, the spring exceeds all of the drinking water standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Nevada. With a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration of only 200 mg/L, which falls into the World Health Organization's highest category for drinking water quality, Johnson Spring is the Cities' superior source of drinking water and, in a state where much higher TDS concentrations are common, it's a natural resource worthy of state and federal protection.

Previously, NDEP and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acknowledged the importance of Johnson Spring. In 2000, the City of West Wendover received a grant from NDEP to complete a drinking water source protection plan (DWSPP) for its drinking water sources. The purpose of a DWSPP is to establish protection zones in which special requirements are enforced to maintain the quality of a drinking water source. In a letter to the city, the BLM acknowledged the DWSPP and committed itself to including it in the Resource Management Plan. The BLM has always upheld this commitment and, most recently, the BLM placed stipulations on the applicant's predecessor, Fronteer Gold, to protect Johnson Spring from mineral exploration activities in the Long Canyon Project area.

Based on the best information at the time, all of the area contributing surface runoff to Johnson Spring was included in Protection Zone 2 (PZ2) of the DWSPP. Along with Protection Zone 1, which is defined as a 100-foot radius around the spring, PZ2 represents a protection zone of the

highest priority in which potential contamination sources must be either prevented, or managed properly to prevent contamination. In fact, recent data and analyses completed by the applicant and made available to the Cities show that the area comprising PZ2 should be much larger. Furthermore, the applicant's water level measurements, collected from monitoring and exploratory wells in the project area, confirm that Johnson Spring is the primary groundwater discharge point for several square miles of the bedrock aquifer. This makes it extremely vulnerable to many of the types of surface and subsurface disturbances proposed in the PoO.

The applicant shared the proposed PoO with the Cities' joint committee before it was released for public comment and assured the joint committee that water resources in the area would be protected through the use of Best Management Practices (BMP). Privately, the fact that much of the operation was clustered around the spring gave the committee cause for concern. Subsequently, the applicant made minor adjustments to the PoO based on its discussions with the joint committee, but at no time did the joint committee accept or endorse the proposed PoO. In fact, it appeared to some committee members that the applicant had not even considered the protection of Johnson Spring in its proposed PoO. This suspicion was confirmed at the last joint committee meeting when the applicant's representatives stated they wanted the Cities to abandon the spring, leading the Cities to conclude that not even the applicant believes this important source of drinking water can be protected under the proposed PoO.

The applicant's desire to develop alternative sources of drinking water in the event the water quality or flows of Johnson Spring are adversely affected by its operation has been discussed with the joint committee many times. The applicant has even proposed replacing the spring flow in order to "make the Cities whole." To accomplish this, the applicant has proposed drilling a well in the Morris Basin, located on the east side of Goshute Valley approximately ten miles south of the Cities' existing Shafter Well Field. The applicant believes a well in this location will provide a suitable replacement for Johnson Spring, but there is no guarantee that a sustainable source of high quality drinking water equivalent to the spring is attainable there. In fact, precipitation data reported by Golder and Associates in a hydrogeologic characterization report prepared for the applicant in 2012 shows that the Toano Range on the east side of Goshute Valley, which is the recharge area for groundwater in the Morris Basin, receives up to 10 inches less precipitation each year than the Pequop Range, which is the recharge area for the Johnson Spring system. Even if there were guarantees that the groundwater resources in the Morris Basin were sustainable, the Cities' significant investment in the rehabilitation of the spring and replacement of miles of transmission pipeline brings with it, through financing conditions with the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA), an obligation to utilize the improvements until the USDA loans are paid. Thus, replacing the spring is not just a matter of replacing its quality and flow.

The applicant proposes to implement BMPs to protect the environment in the affected area, yet BMPs aren't foolproof. Monthly water samples are collected from the spring each month. These samples are tested by a certified laboratory to verify that the water conforms to drinking water

standards. This year alone, surfactants (likely from drilling fluids used in exploration drilling), which are regulated under the secondary drinking water standards, have been detected four times. The highest concentration detected was 0.47 mg/L, which is just under the Maximum Contaminant Level of 0.50 mg/L. Prior to exploration activity on the Long Canyon Project, surfactants were nonexistent in the spring water. Despite the applicant's best efforts, the water quality of the spring has already been adversely affected merely by its early exploration activities. This serves to highlight the vulnerability of Johnson Spring to adverse impacts from the mineral extraction and processing activities proposed in the PoO. It is the opinion of the Cities that avoidance should be the preferred BMP incorporated into the proposed PoO to protect Johnson Spring.

The attached exhibit (Sheet 1) is a composite showing the proposed PoO project plan overlain by PZ2 of the DWSPP which shows the proposed open pit mine located partially within PZ2. Other project facilities, such as administrative offices and maintenance facilities are proposed to be located entirely within PZ2. This places the spring at risk of contamination from ore extraction, human waste, and a myriad of industrial products and materials associated with mining. The Cities specific recommendations for revising the PoO are as follows:

Open Pit Mine: Applicant proposes to develop the pit to an elevation of 5700 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) which is only approximately 15 feet above the top of the water table in the bedrock aquifer supplying water to Johnson Spring. Maintaining sufficient vertical separation between the static water level in the bedrock aquifer and the bottom of the pit is essential to protect the spring. The applicant's mapping shows that the bedrock in the project area of the Pequop Range is highly faulted and fractured (Figure 3-5, Golder and Associates, 2012). The results of an aquifer test conducted in 2011 by Frontier Development USA on a well located one mile north of Johnson Spring completed in the carbonate aquifer not only showed that groundwater flow is highly fracture controlled, but that there is significant interconnection of the fracture system above Johnson Spring with locally very high transmissivities along the fractures in these carbonate units surrounding Johnson Spring.

The Cities recommend a minimum vertical separation of 200 feet. This would place the bottom of the pit at elevation 5900 MSL and provide a buffer between the highly disruptive mining activities proposed in the PoO and the bedrock aquifer.

Project Facilities within and near PZ2: The Cities understand the ore body is a natural feature that dictates the location of the proposed open pit mine. However, there is no reason for the applicant to locate other project facilities within PZ2. In fact, based on the applicant's own hydrogeologic data, groundwater flow in the bedrock aquifer converges from the north, south and west to Johnson Spring which is a major point of groundwater discharge from the bedrock aquifer for this portion of the Pequop Range (Figure 4-11, Golder and Associates, 2012). Thus, even the cyanide heap leach facility, stockpile areas, and landfills should be located east of the bedrock aquifer in the alluvial fill, not within the capture zone of the spring. The Cities

recommend a minimum horizontal separation from the spring of 2 miles for any project facilities, other than the open pit mine, which are located above the bedrock aquifer.

Project Groundwater Diversions: The applicant's PoO plans for the water supply for the mine and milling operations to be provided from a water well completed in the alluvial aquifer. The applicant proposes a water supply well to be located approximately one mile south-southeast of Johnson Spring, and anticipates that the mine will require an operation pumping rate of 2,000 gpm from this well with periods of demand requiring up to 2,500 gpm to supply the needs of the mining operation. The Cities are extremely concerned with the impact pumping the volume of water required from a well at this location will have on Johnson Spring. This concern is validated by the results of a report prepared by Golder Associates (2012) for the applicant in which the effect of pumping at the proposed well site was simulated.

Golder and Associates modeled the effect pumping a water supply well at a rate of 2,000 gpm at two proposed locations south of the mine would have locally on the carbonate and alluvial aquifers, and more distally in the alluvial aquifer at the Shafter Well Field. The well locations are approximately 1.0 and 2.6 miles south of Johnson Spring. Two different simulations or models were run for each proposed well location. Of primary interest to the Cities is the impact pumping during mining would have on Johnson Spring. Results of the simulated pumping showed 1.7 to 5.5 feet of drawdown or lowering of the water table within the Johnson Spring carbonate aquifer system above Johnson Spring depending on the method used.

At first glance this may not seem significant. However, the flow of Johnson Spring is very sensitive to changes in the elevation of the water table in the carbonate aquifer above the spring. During the above referenced bedrock aquifer test conducted by Fronteer in 2011, the water table in the carbonate aquifer above Johnson Spring was lowered 0.5 feet after 41 hours of pumping. This lowering of the water table directly corresponded to a reduction in the flow of Johnson Spring from 961 gpm to 672 gpm (289 gpm) in that same 41 hour period.

Assuming a linear relationship, lowering of the water table just over 1.5 feet during the aquifer test would have caused Johnson Spring to entirely stop flowing. Lowering the water table another 0.39 feet from that observed during the test would have effectively reduced the flow of Johnson Spring to approximately 450 gpm or 1.0 cfs or to the point that further drop in water table would have begun reducing flows of the Spring to an amount below that which the Cities rely on and have legal right to use under their water right.

Therefore, even the most conservative estimate of 1.7 feet of drawdown simulated by Golder Associates in the Johnson Spring carbonate aquifer would severely impact the flows of Johnson Spring and impact the Cities' important water supply source.

To alleviate this concern, the Cities recommend the water supply well for the mine be located at least 4 miles south of Johnson Spring and the mine.

The Cities don't dispute the applicant's right to utilize the mineral resource within certain parameters, provided the Cities receive equal consideration and priority for their critical water resource. It is likely that Johnson Spring and the Long Canyon Mine can co-exist if the proposed PoO is modified in the manner recommended in this letter.

Noted scientist and naturalist Aldo Leopold wrote:

"Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left."

To the Cities, compromising a life-giving, sustainable water resource, which has a history spanning at least two centuries, for the sake of extracting and processing an unsustainable, land altering mineral resource is unacceptable and unnecessary.

The Cities appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed PoO and invite the BLM to allow us to answer any further questions it may have concerning the data and analyses on which our comments and recommendations are based.

On behalf of the City of West Wendover,
Nevada


(Name)


(Title)

On behalf of the City of Wendover, Utah

(Name)

(Title)

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On behalf of the City of West Wendover,
Nevada

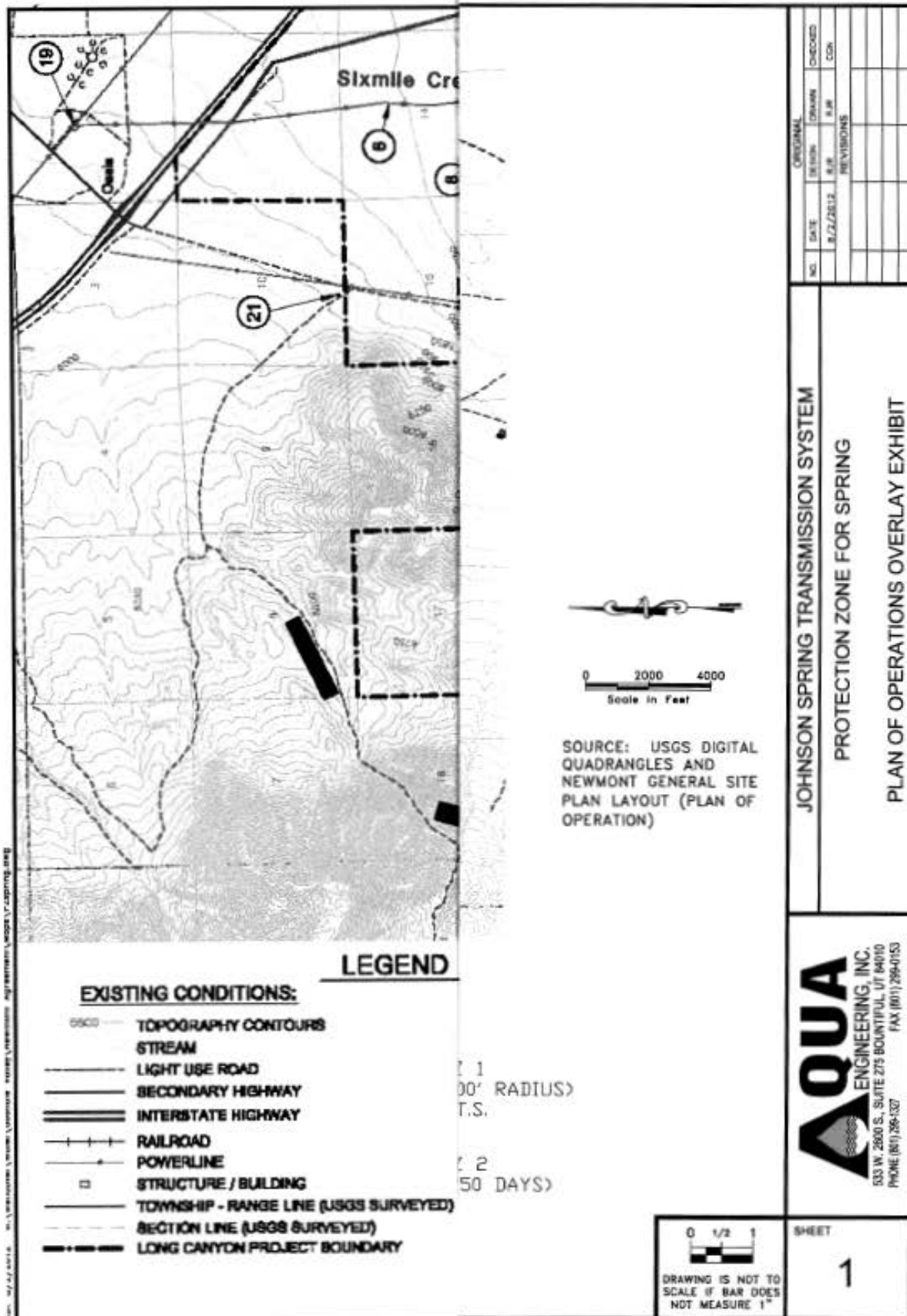
(Name)

(Title)

On behalf of the City of Wendover, Utah


(Name)


(Title)



9 City of Wells - Huff, Kenny



August 24, 2012

Bureau of Land Management

3900 E. Idaho St.

Elko, NV 89801

RE: Long Canyon Project for Newmont Gold

Dear Ms. Wirthlin:

The City of Wells has been involved with Newmont Gold and the projected impacts on their Long Canyon Mining Project. The Board of Council strongly supports the project and hopes as development progresses, the City of Wells will prosper. Newmont Gold has been very progressive and detailed with respect to the natural resources of the area and has demonstrated their commitment to be a responsible neighbor and long term partner in Wells. We are excited to think our community may offer development opportunities to them and their associates not to mention the employees that will participate in the operation. So far, the exploration activity has been nothing but positive and we look forward to the construction and long term mining.

We ask the BLM to continue working with the Long Canyon representatives and expedite the environmental process as much as possible.

Sincerely,


Kenny Huff

Mayor of Wells, Nevada

The City of Wells is an equal opportunity employer.

TEL 775.752.3355 FAX 775.752.3419 wellscityhall@frontier.com

MAILING P.O. BOX 366 • WELLS, NEVADA 89835 PHYSICAL 525 6TH STREET • WELLS, NEVADA 89835

10 Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority - Borda, Pam and Zornes, David



Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority
723 Railroad St. * Elko, NV 89801 *775-738-2100
www.eceda.com

August 27, 2012

Bureau of Land Management
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801
ATTN: Whitney Wirthlin

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
2012 AUG 27 AM 11:56

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

The Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) formerly known as Elko County Economic Diversification Authority (ECEDA) is submitting this letter of support for Newmont's Long Canyon Mine Project.

NNRDA is responsible for economic development in Elko County and each of the four cities within the county; Carlin, Elko, Wells, and West Wendover. The Long Canyon Mine Project will benefit the entire region.

We applaud the BLM and Newmont with the approach taken to work collaboratively with regulatory agencies, communities, and other key stakeholders including the NNRDA incorporating input from these stakeholders in the early stages of the design, engineering, and permitting. The fact that Newmont redesigned their initial plans to incorporate a deer migration corridor, and to move the processing facilities around at the request of the Wendover communities and to re-engineer their tailing storage facility to provide safety and security for sage grouse, demonstrates their commitment to responsible care for the environment during mine life and also when mining is complete. We urge BLM to continue this collaborative engagement and expedite the NEPA process.

As described in the Plan of Operations and in discussions during a social impact analysis process, the Long Canyon Project will add much-needed stimulation to the local economy by increasing the tax base of Elko County. Additional positive impacts to the local region will occur from providing employment at a time when much of the State and nation are suffering from loss of jobs. The construction phase of the project will generate employment for up to 400 construction workers for 18 to 24 months and the long-term effects will include 300 to 500 additional full-time jobs.

The long canyon project is also a great addition for our mining support companies as well. Hundreds of companies have invested in the region and additional mining will provide sustainability and growth for these companies.

The positive economic impact of this project on Wells and West Wendover in particular will bring much needed growth to those areas as well as to Elko and to the County. For West Wendover, the project allows diversification from their primary industry of gaming and will spur growth in many other areas of need. For Wells, the project also spurs growth in other areas of need such as retail, health care, etc. and diversifies their economic base as well.

We do not believe there should be any requirements for the viewshed. Though we believe generally the project is consistent with responsible mining activities in the region we do understand that there are potential water resource impacts related to the West Wendover Johnson Springs Water System and that mitigation measures with West Wendover are needed. With regard to issues for archaeological resources we have no expertise or opinion in this area.

We are confident that Newmont will work with West Wendover to a mutually satisfactory result for West Wendover's water supply. We are not aware of other potential impacts to the area and believe the project should be approved as quickly as possible.

This letter of support was approved by NNRDA's Board of Directors and Executive Committee at their August 22, 2012 meeting.

Sincerely,



Pam Borda
Executive Director



David Zornes
Chairman

11 Ormaza Construction, Inc. - Ormaza, Pedro

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE

2017 AUG 29 AM 11: 55



August 22, 2012

Bureau of Land Management
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801
ATTN: Whitney Wirthlin

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

Ormaza Construction, Inc. of Elko Nevada is submitting this letter of support for Newmont's Long Canyon Mine Project. The Long Canyon Mine Project will benefit the entire region.

We applaud the BLM and Newmont with the approach taken to work collaboratively with regulatory agencies, communities, and other key stakeholders incorporating input from these stakeholders in the early stages of the design, engineering, and permitting. The fact that Newmont redesigned their initial plans to incorporate a deer migration corridor, and to move the processing facilities around at the request of the Wendover communities and to re-engineer their tailing storage facility to provide safety and security for sage grouse, demonstrates their commitment to responsible care for the environment during mine life and also when mining is complete. We urge BLM to continue this collaborative engagement and expedite the NEPA process.

As described in the Plan of Operations and in discussions during a social impact analysis process, the Long Canyon Project will add much-needed stimulation to the local economy by increasing the tax base of Elko County. Additional positive impacts to the local region will occur from providing employment at a time when much of the State and nation are suffering from loss of jobs. The construction phase of the project will generate employment for up to 400 construction workers for 18 to 24 months and the long-term effects will include 300 to 500 additional full-time jobs.

t 775.738.5611
f 775.753.5444

p.o. box 339
elko, nevada 89803

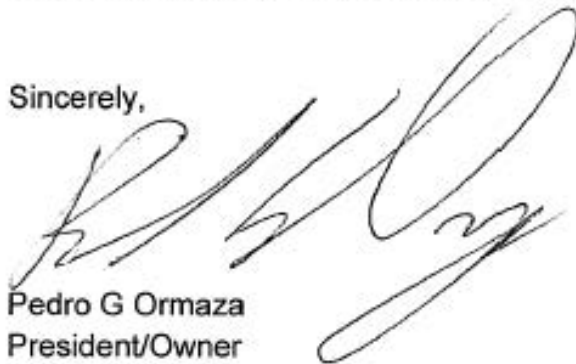
ormaza@frontiernet.net
www.ormazaconstruction.com

The long canyon project is also a great addition for our mining support companies as well. Hundreds of companies have invested in the region and additional mining will provide sustainability and growth for these companies.

We do not believe there should be any requirements for the viewshed. Though we believe generally the project is consistent with responsible mining activities in the region we do understand that there are potential water resource impacts related to the West Wendover Johnson Springs Water System and that mitigation measures with West Wendover are needed. With regard to issues for archaeological resources we have no expertise or opinion in this area.

We are confident that Newmont will work with West Wendover to a mutually satisfactory result for West Wendover's water supply. We are not aware of other potential impacts to the area and believe the project should be approved as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pedro G. Ormaza', is written over a large, faint, stylized 'X' or 'Z' mark.

Pedro G Ormaza
President/Owner
Ormaza Construction, Inc.

12 Sloan, Rita

From: Robert/Rita Sloan [<mailto:rwksloan@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, September 01, 2012 6:17 AM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: Comments for the Long Canyon Mine Project

Whitney Wirthlin

Bureau of Land Management

Wells Field Office Geologist

3900 E. Idaho Street

Elko, NV 89801

Re: Scoping Comments for the Long Canyon Mine Project

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

I am writing you to express my concerns about opening a new mining region in the North Pequops Range. This is a region of marvelous basin and range landscape that offers excellent opportunities for recreation and supports healthy wildlife. It is my understanding that a large portion of the North Pequops is considered to have wilderness character. This does not surprise me. I hope that the wilderness character of this land is not destroyed by the Long Canyon Mine.

There are five aspects that I think the BLM needs to address in the environmental impact statement: water, air, wildlife, land and cultural and the cumulative affects on these aspects. Mainly, what plan is there to protect the region's flora and fauna, migration patters of wildlife, and spring water? There may be sensitive species in the region that need special protect as well. How will gaseous emissions from all mines facilities and vehicles affect the environment? The project needs to have a restoration plan for all aspects of the mine including an alternative for backfilling of the open pit. I would like to see the BLM examine how this project will affect recreation use in the area including solitude in the environment and hunting.

I would also be surprised if there were no cultural aspects that require protection. Does the project/BLM have any mitigation plans for the effects of mining on the historical and archeological artifacts of the region? Has the project and BLM consulted the Western Shoshone people? I understand also that the treaty of Ruby Valley is still in force and so if project is within land outlined in the Treat of Ruby Valley, mineral rights were reserved and therefore continue to belong to the Western Shoshone Nation. Please address this issue.

The EIS should also examine how the various impacts of this new mine will add to the collective impacts of other ecosystem disturbing the projects in the region. Overall, I would not like to see this mine cause the loss of another Great Basin treasure like the North Pequops

Sincerely,

Rita Sloan

13 Davis, Colin, and Weaver-Davis, Teresa

15060 Perlite Drive
Reno, NV 89521
September 1, 2012

Whitney Wirthlin
Bureau of Land Management
Wells Field Office Geologist
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Re: Scoping Comments for the Long Canyon Mine Project

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

We are writing you to express our concerns about opening a new mining region in the North Pequops Range. This is a region of marvelous basin and range landscape that offers excellent opportunities for recreation and supports healthy wildlife. We know this large portion of the North Pequops has wilderness character since one of us is an Elko Countian growing up in Carlin and enjoying outdoor activities throughout the County. The other has adopted Nevada, especially the northeastern counties with their pristine sonoran/alpine ecosystems. The precious remaining wilderness character of this land must not be destroyed by the Long Canyon Mine. We have to ask why an open pit is even under consideration when the shaft approach has better efficacy for protect flora, fauna, watershed, air quality and the bottom line for restoration. We fought to prevent Sierra Pacific Power (now Nevada Energy) as well as out of state power company(s) attempts to build coal plants at Thousand Springs. This victory should indicate the importance and maintaining the sensitive environment.

There are five aspects that we think the BLM must address in the environmental impact statement: water, air, wildlife, land and cultural and the cumulative effects on these aspects. Mainly, what plan is there to protect the region's flora and fauna, migration patterns of wildlife, and spring water? There are sensitive species in the region that need special protect as well. How will gaseous emissions from all mines facilities and vehicles affect the environment? The project needs to have a restoration plan for all aspects of the mine including an alternative for backfilling of the open pit. Again wouldn't the shaft approach ensure restoration? We would like to see the BLM examine how this project will affect recreation use in the area including solitude in the environment and hunting.

We would also be surprised if there were no cultural aspects that require protection. Does the project/BLM have any mitigation plans for the effects of mining on the historical and archeological artifacts of the region? Has the project and BLM consulted the Western Shoshone people? I understand also that the treaty of Ruby Valley is still in force and so if project is within land outlined in the Treat of Ruby Valley, mineral rights were reserved and therefore continue to belong to the Western Shoshone Nation. Please address this issue.

We would also like the historical value of the surrounding area respected and protected. This is near the original Continental Railroad project and numerous historic sites along the various wagon train routes. We should not allow destruction of these areas. History cannot be restore once destroyed.

What are the milling plans for the ore? Please address the long term effects of transporting to existing milling operations or the impact of the construction of yet another mercury emitting and coal fired milling operation. The gray haze at ground level each day downwind from Valmy and

Newmont's two additional coal power plants on the Horseshoe and TS Lazy Ranches is inexcusable!

The EIS should also examine how the various impacts of this new mine will add to the collective impacts of other ecosystem disturbing the projects in the region. Overall, we would not like to see this mine cause the loss of another Great Basin treasure like the North Pequops

Sincerely,
Colin K. Davis

Teresa Weaver-Davis

14 Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada - Fulkerson, Bob

From: Bob Fulkerson [<mailto:bfulkerson@planevada.org>]

Sent: Monday, September 03, 2012 6:39 AM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: PLAN comments on Long Canyon DEIS

Dear Whitney Wirthlin:

Please find attached comments of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada on the Long Canyon DEIS.

Could you also please email me a response indicating you received this?

Thank you for your consideration, and best wishes.

Bob Fulkerson



September 3, 2012
Attn: Whitney Wirthlin
Bureau of Land Management, Elko District Office
Wells Field Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Bureau of Land Management (BLM),

On behalf of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN), I would like to submit the following comments and concerns for the proposed Long Canyon Mine pursuant to the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Newmont Mining Corporation's proposed Long Canyon open-pit gold mine (News Release No. ELDO2012-056).

We have carefully reviewed the Long Canyon Mine Plan of Operations and believe the project will have significant impacts on the land, water and wildlife of the area. In general, we believe the plan is incomplete with regard to a number of monitoring and reclamation activities that will actually be completed related to the mine.

We understand that the specific details on these activities may not be available at this time but encourage the BLM to ensure that adequate monitoring and reclamation processes are implemented, along with enforcement provisions, prior to the project moving forward. We encourage the BLM to hold the Newmont project to the highest standards of environmental monitoring and remediation due to the sensitive nature of the natural ecosystem, and the vast potential for permanent damage in the area in which the project takes place.

The following is a summary of our major categories and issues of concern, as well as our desired mitigation measures where appropriate:

Minimize the Substantial Amount of Grading, Digging and Erosion that Will Forever Change the Natural Topography and Beauty of the Ecosystem: Some 75% of the mine pit area is on public land which is essentially the property of all Nevada residents (Plan Page IV). The plan calls for a huge amount of grading and digging, the removal of 125,000 to 175,000 tons of rock per day during operations and some 60 million tons of rock per year, (Plan Page V, 12), which will dramatically alter the natural topography and beauty of the ecosystem. The project will use an estimated 4,000 acre feet of water annually during start up and 2,300 per year during operations which has the potential to cause substantial erosion and damage to the natural environment (Plan Page 31). However, the section on "Erosion and Sediment Control Measures" on pages 43-44 is only four sentences long and provides few specifics on the effective control of erosion at the site.

Furthermore, the Plan of Operations is vague on the specific reclamation measures and accompanying enforcement processes. To illustrate, page viii of the plan states that "final project closure and actual reclamation work will require up to three years, followed by several years of reclamation management and monitoring" but few specifics are given regarding this and about enforcement measures that ensure that this is undertaken.

Monitoring Processes Need to Be Implemented to Regulate Additional Drill Sites and

Remediation of Past Drill Sites: The project specifies certain drill sites but then states on page 7 that “new drill sites will be established with other selected drill sites being reclaimed concurrently as drill targets are evaluated.” The plan appears to give Newmont *carte blanc* to establish new drill sites that could greatly exceed the drilling and grading called for in the plan of operations. We ask that the BLM set up a process for approving and monitoring these drill sites, as well as the effective remediation of past drill sites to ensure that the company is not given free rein to drill as much as it wants without regard for the natural environment.

Reduce the Amount of Tree and Vegetation Removal at the Site Which Will Never Be Restored to Its Current Condition: The project states that its goal is to “minimize project-related impacts to vegetation and riparian zones” (page 43) and “reclamation and revegetation will be implemented as soon as practical for long term stability and erosion control.” We ask that the BLM monitor this to ensure that this is in fact undertaken to a satisfactory level.

Implement Safeguards and Mitigation Measures to Prevent the Pollution of the Natural Environment: The project calls for the use of a large number of hazardous chemicals, such as cyanide, sulfuric acid antifreeze, and solvents, but is vague and lacks specifics on what mitigation measures and enforcement processes will be used to ensure that these chemicals do not damage the environment and remediation activities that will take place in the event of a spill or leakage. The plan references two appendixes (Appendix C, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan and Appendix B, Emergency Response Plan) (Plan page 38) but these appendixes were not available online and no mention is made of monitoring and enforcement by the BLM to ensure that these plans are in fact followed and what enforcement mechanisms are in place in the event that they are not adhered to. We encourage BLM to implement and undertake effective safeguards to ensure that these pollution prevention plans are adhered to.

Minimize the Disruption of the Natural Habit of Wildlife Species and Implement Monitoring Processes and Mitigation Measures to Achieve this Goal: The project plan states provides very few specifics on “wildlife mitigation” measures in only a few short paragraphs on page 59. What will be done if significant disruption is caused to wildlife habitats during the project? The plan notes that the “Big Springs ranch property will provide opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement” but this is a postage stamp-size plot compared to the impact area. What are the other wild life enhancement opportunities mentioned in the plan that are not elaborated on at all? Will these mitigation measures be sufficient and who will monitor them to ensure that they are undertaken?

The plan also states that Newmont will internally monitor the project area on a weekly basis for the mortality of wildlife, but what will be done if mortality cases are encountered? Who will determine what is an acceptable level of mortality and what adjustments should be made to prevent additional deaths of wildlife in the area?

Implement Restoration and Mitigation Measures to Restore the Site to Its Natural State: The Plan calls for Newmont to submit a “Reclamation Plan and Final Permanent Closure Plan” at some distant date that will outline reclamation activities (page 50). Given the substantial impact to the natural environment that this project has, we encourage the BLM to require Newmont to provide more specifics on what this plan will contain to ensure that enough is done to return the area to its natural state to the greatest extent possible. Page 67 says that Newmont will monitor the reclamation success but we are interested to know what will be done by the BLM to provide an independent check on Newmont’s evaluation of “reclamation success”? What will happen if Newmont fails to sufficiently remediate the area and implement its closure plan?

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Plan of Operations and we hope that you

take this list of concerns under serious advisement prior to the project moving forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions about these concerns.

Sincerely,
Bob Fulkerson, State Director
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
821 Riverside Drive
Reno, Nevada 89503
(775) 348-7557
bfulkerson@planevada.org

15 Sill, Marjorie

From: msill@juno.com [<mailto:msill@juno.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 03, 2012 12:32 PM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: Scoping comments

I understand that Newmont is proposing a large gold open-pit mine in the North Pequops. This is an area considered to have excellent wilderness characteristics and that has had almost no mining activity in the past.

Concerns that I have include the excessive amount of water such a mine would use that is now important to wildlife in the area and the ancient archeological sites that could be disturbed by this activity. I therefore request that a complete and extensive Environmental Impact Statement with a range of alternatives be prepared on such a proposal that will address cultural values, wildlife values, and water use before any action is taken. Please send me the scoping comments and the Draft EIS when it is prepared. Thank you.

Marjorie Sill
720 Brookfield Drive
Reno, NV 89503
775-322-2867

16 Wendover Airfield, Tooele County - Peterson, James

From: JPetersen@co.tooele.ut.us [<mailto:JPetersen@co.tooele.ut.us>]

Sent: Monday, September 03, 2012 8:51 PM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Cc: RBrown@co.tooele.ut.us

Subject: Public Comment on the Long Canyon Project

Ladies/Gentlemen,

I have attached a letter regarding the Long Canyon Project.
I would appreciate you including it in your evaluation.

*James S. Petersen
Tooele County Airport Director
Wendover Airfield
Airfield: 435-665-2308
Mobile: 801-541-8723*



WENDOVER AIRFIELD INTEROFFICE MEMO

To: Bureau of Land Management
Date: September 3, 2012
From: James S. Petersen, Aviation Director, Wendover Airport
Subject: Long Canyon Project

I have reviewed material regarding the mining project proposed by Newmont Mining Corporation with regard to the water situation in Wendover.

For Wendover Airfield, water has historically been a challenge. The Army Air Forces upgraded the water pipeline put in by Western Pacific during the first part of World War II, but water on the base was generally inadequate for the large number of airmen training there. Our objective today is to attract business to the area that will help support the seriously depressed economy of Wendover, Utah. Of course, one of the questions always asked when we market the airport for development (which is 2,200 acres) is: "what is the availability of water".

Water is literally the lifeblood of the Wendover economy, without an ample supply, even the current businesses would have their growth potential stopped. Future development will absolutely depend on a reliable and ample water source. Wendover Utah, right now, cannot depend on the pipeline and system that was originally built for the Army Air Force. We must buy water through the West Wendover water system, and so are very dependent on the Johnson Springs system.

Reviewing the data that was generated when Fronteer was completing their original development, it is evident that pumping in the area proposed seriously lowered the water supply to the Wendover area water. I have reviewed the letter and data from Wendover and West Wendover and find it to be logical and certainly not overly cautious.

I believe that the only reasonable approach is for Newmont Mining to drill new wells in an area where they believe that water would be available. This new source should then be proven with regard to flow and water quality. The next step would be to extract water from the Johnson springs area and test the flow rate and water level of the new Newmont drilled wells. Only after a proven water source of equal or better flow and quality has been established should the mining efforts be allowed to proceed. Cost, of course, is also a factor. A replacement source at a higher cost should be considered in the financial agreement.

Water will literally be the key element of life or death for the Wendover area. If something failed and some percentage (up to 30%) of the water was not available, the results would be disastrous. I do not believe that the project should proceed on good faith or promises as those will be worthless if a replacement water source has not been proven.

17 Wells Chamber of Commerce - Holford, Matt

From: Chamber [<mailto:wellschamber@wellsnevada.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 8:07 AM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: Long Canyon Newmont

Dear Sirs,

Please accept our letter of support for the long canyon project in Elko County.

Matt Holford

Matt Holford
President
Wells Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 615
Wells, NV 89835
775-752-3540 Office
775-934-1481



Chamber of Commerce

August 4th, 2012

To: BLM Elko

Subject: Long Canyon Mine Project, Elko County Nevada

Dear Sirs,

The Wells Chamber of Commerce would like to voice our support for the long Canyon EIS. The Wells Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to working with the Long Canyon Project as it goes forward.

Matt Holford, President

18 Great Basin Resource Watch - Hadder, John

From: John Hadder [<mailto:john@gbrw.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 12:03 PM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine; Wirthlin, Whitney J

Subject: GBRW scoping comments on Long Canyon Project

Hello Whitney,

Attached are our comments. Do you need a hard copy as well? I look forward to meeting with you later this month.

Sincerely,

John Hadder Great Basin Resource Watch

85 Keystone, Ste. I

Reno, NV 89503

775-348-1986

775-722-4056 (c)

775-345-3575 (f)

john@gbrw.org

www.gbrw.org



Working with Communities to Protect Their Land Air and Water

85 Keystone Ave., Suite I, Reno, NV 89503
775-348-1986, www.gbrw.org

September 4, 2012

Whitney Wirthlin
Bureau of Land Management
Wells Field Office Geologist
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Re: Scoping Comments for the Long Canyon Mine Project

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

Great Basin Resource Watch (GBRW) has been in communication with Newmont Mining Corp. on this project and we express our appreciation for their advanced disclosures of information.

The Pequops range has yet to experience large-scale open pit mining and overall GBRW is concerned about opening a new mining region in the Great Basin where there is the potential for wilderness.

Water Issues

1. Mining water requirements. It is our understanding that the project as proposed will not be dewatering to excavate the open pit. However, there will be considerable water extraction for mining purposes ranging from about 1,400 to 2,500 gallons per minute (GPM). There needs to be an assessment of water use compared to available resources and existing water needs (both human and non-human; including vegetative), and potential impacts to Big Spring and Johnson Springs System – a local natural resource.

2. Hydrology. A complete characterization of the surface waters and springs and an understanding of groundwater movement is needed. To achieve this end, at least one year of monthly samples followed by quarterly samples, as a baseline. There should have been recorded water level data in every exploration bore-hole collected. An adequate number of those boreholes should become monitoring wells and there should be a minimum 2 years of hydrologic baseline collected.

Complete assay analysis is also needed to include Safe Drinking Water and Nevada Dept. of Environmental Protection standards.

Changes in water dynamics need to be examined as to how local flora and fauna will be affected; potential loss of springs or changes in the water table, for example. Analysis must address whether the springs are on wildlife migratory routes, and, if so, how migrations will be affected.

3. Geochemical analysis. The geochemistry of waste rock, heap leach ore, and tailings must be thoroughly analyzed for potential acid production, including crystallographic analysis to determine

Great Basin Resource Watch is a tax-exempt (501(c)3) organization

the extent of fracturing expected upon blasting. In this regard the full range of static and kinetic tests need to be performed: determine the NAPP and NAG values, for example. There must be a contingency plan accounting for markedly varying acid generation capacity as the mining proceeds that is not expected from preliminary testing.

4. Reclamation. There must be a reclamation plan that includes how the mine will deal with the occurrence of leaks in the waste water containment system; mill tailings pond, heap/leach, and waste rock.

5. Analysis of the potential loss of riparian areas is also necessary.

Air Issues

1. Mercury emissions. The ore and waste rock needs to be analyzed for mercury content. There needs to be a mercury capture plan with anticipated mercury emissions. Analysis of environmental impacts from expected mercury emissions is also needed.

In addition to considering mercury emissions from thermal processes the draft EIS should discuss impacts from fugitive emission off of heap leach, tailings, and waste rock facilities. Work publicly presented in November 2009, measured these mercury emissions determining that they are not insignificant. Two mines were used in the study, Twin Creeks (Newmont) and Cortez-Pipeline (Barrick), where it was estimated that the fugitive emissions accounted for 19% (12 to 21%) and 17% (15 to 31%) of total at Twin Creeks and Cortez-Pipeline respectively. Thus, according to this analysis the increase in emissions due to fugitive emissions was calculated at 23% (13 to 27%) and 20% (17 to 46%) for the mines respectively.

GBRW does not accept any argument that these fugitive mercury emissions cannot be estimated and therefore are unknowable. The toxicity of mercury alone demands that every attempt be made to determine the extent of all possible sources and pathways into the environment. In fact the Final Supplementary EIS for the Cortez Hills Expansion Project did provide an estimate of fugitive mercury emissions.¹

2. Hazardous Air Emissions. Analysis and mitigation of other gaseous emissions (such as sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, etc.) from all mine facilities and vehicles is needed.

3. Greenhouse Gases. In light of pending regulations on carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) releases, the draft EIS should analyze the project's contribution to carbon dioxide and other significant greenhouse gas emissions.

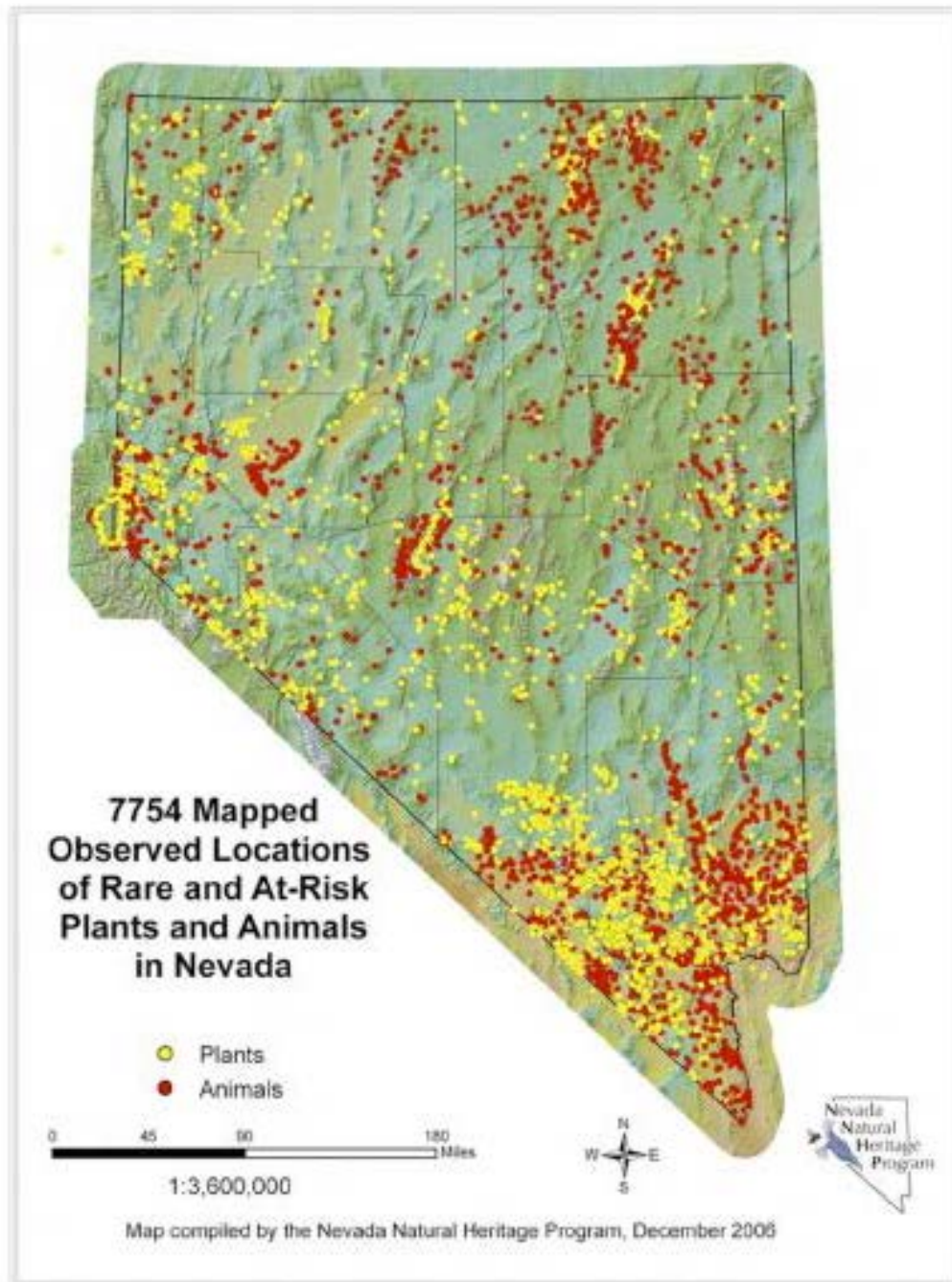
4. Particulates. The expected amount of airborne particles as dust or diesel vehicular emissions from all aspects of the project needs to be determined with concentrations for varying wind factors. Impacts of the "dust" should be evaluated for inhalation health impacts, visibility impairment, and resettling on surface water and vegetation. In the case of resettling on surface water there should be a chemical analysis of the dust to determine whether the dust could have an adverse effects on the chemistry of the water. In general, there needs to be a plan for dust control.

Wildlife Issues

1. Flora and Fauna. A full inventory of the loss of plant and animal species, examining both estimated numbers and specie variation needs to be done as a result of land disturbance, waste rock, heap leach, and tailings coverage. In particular any sensitive species like Sage Grouse need to be thoroughly considered. It is our understanding that the Pequops range is home to a rare specie

of snail, *O. strigosa depressa*, which is discussed by Mark L. Ports in a 2004 paper.² An analysis of the impact to this species should not be overlooked.

In addition according to the 2006 Scorecard of the Nevada Natural Heritage Program³ there have been citations of rare and at-risk plant and animals in the North Pequops, see map below. This map is not high resolution and the document does not clarify which plants and animals pertain to the citing locations on the map. BLM, if it has not already done so, should follow up on these citations to determine which plants and animals are referred to here and how the mine project will impact them, and what mitigation is possible to avoid these impacts.



2. Local Climate. Analysis should be done to determine whether the land disturbances could change the local microclimate.

3. Migratory species. An understanding of migratory routes needs to be resolved, and the impacts of the loss of these migratory routes from the various land disturbances should be addressed. It is our understanding that there are significant migration routes within the project area. In particular, is an antelope (or mule deer) route which exists between the future location of the waste rock dump and the open pit. It does not seem likely that this route will be preserved under the current mine plan. BLM needs to produce a solid evaluation of the proposed mitigation strategy for this (and any other) migratory route including data of how similar mitigation methods have been effective elsewhere.

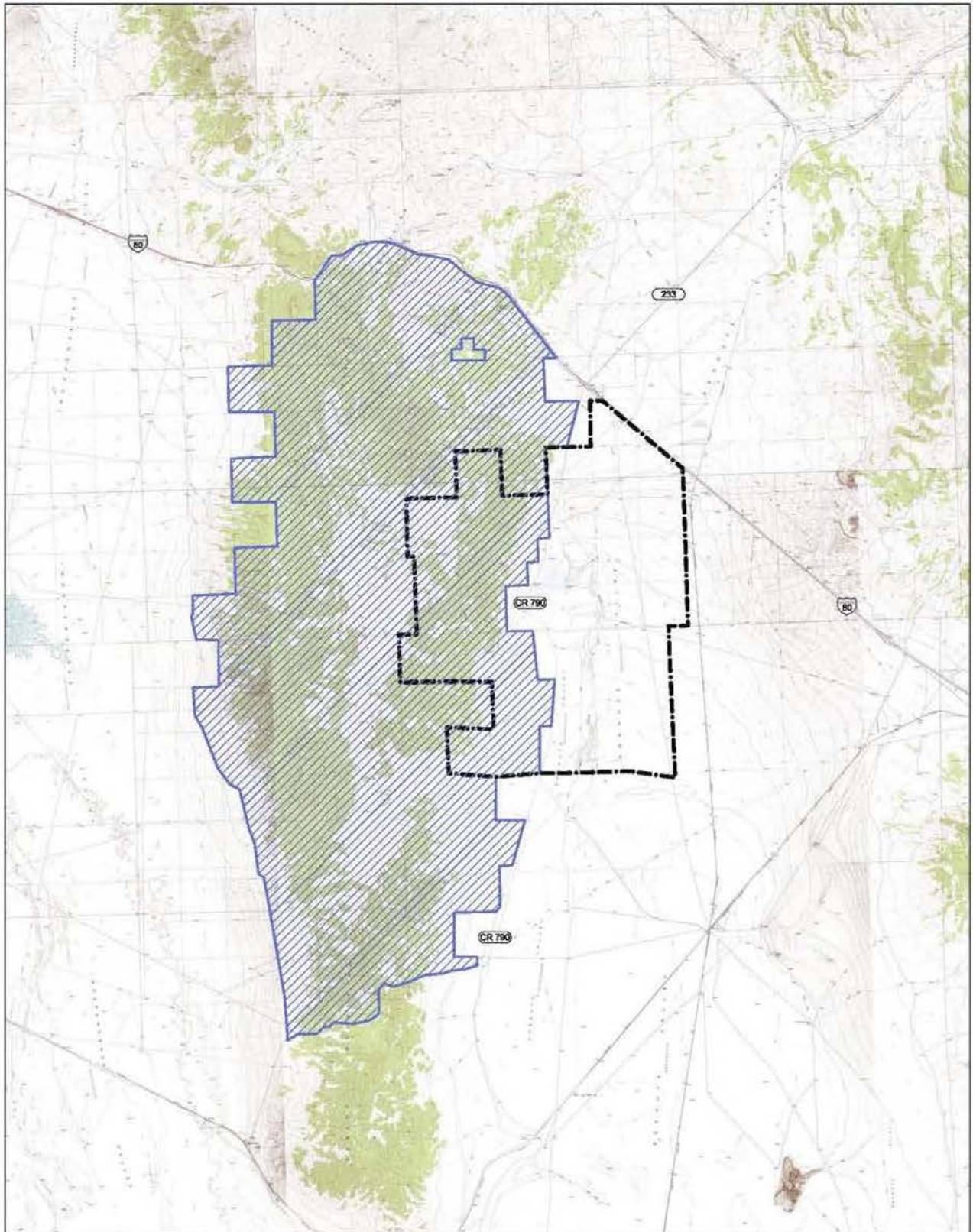
Land Issues

1. Viewshed. There also needs to be an analysis of whether the loss of scenic views will affect economic and ecological viability of the area. In discussions with Newmont there was considerable attention to how the reclaimed mine site will appear from Interstate 80. However, the reclamation needs to be more extensive. The North Pequops is a beautiful basin and range landscape, where BLM has previously identified portions that have wilderness characteristics.³ The visual aspects of the site should be returned as closely as possible to its natural existing appearance so as to restore the inviting quality that now exists.

2. Open Pits. A complete restoration plan for all aspects of the mine needs to be detailed. The draft EIS should contain an alternative for backfilling of the open pit. A plan for restoring the landscape to as close as possible to the pre-mining appearance should be developed. Again, due to the attractive character of the land the backfilling option needs to be fully explored. The reclamation plan should assume that people will at some point in the future will be in and around the open pit and thus they need to be at least reclaimed so they are not dangerous to human intrusion.

3. Wilderness Character. As mentioned above BLM has already determined that a portion of the project area intercepts lands with wilderness characteristics. See Figure below extracted from BLM provided online documents, where the shaded area indicates Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC). Essentially, the entire northern Pequops are included. According to the Wilderness Act wilderness is defined as:

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.³



LEGEND

- LONG CANYON PROJECT BOUNDARY
- CUMULATIVE EFFECTS STUDY AREA BOUNDARY
- CR 790 COUNTY ROAD 790
- 293 STATE HIGHWAY 293
- 89 US INTERSTATE 89

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS STUDY AREAS

- LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

NOTE:

SCOPING REPORT – LONG CANYON MINE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BLM ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE

SITE LOCATION



Environmental and Social Responsibility Department
APPENDIX D
D-38

LONG CANYON PROJECT
FIGURE 26 - LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS
 Townships 34, 35, 36 North - Ranges 65, 66, 67 East
 Elko County, Nevada

Even though the shaded region on the figure is not designated as wilderness it could be in the future assuming that the wilderness character of the land is not compromised. GBRW does find it difficult to see how to mitigate the various land disturbing aspects of a large open pit mining operation so as to preserve wilderness character. Even out of eyeshot of the mine operation there will be sound and ambient light from the mine at all times. Currently, these lands do provide outstanding opportunities for *solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation*; the Six Mile Canyon especially so with its relatively lush and striking habitat. BLM must provide a detailed mitigation plan for impacts on wilderness character, and assure sufficient reclamation so that these lands will not be closed to wilderness study or designation in the future due to this mine project.

GBRW has also been in contact with residents in the region who use the Northern Pequops for recreation who are concerned about impacts to these lands. BLM needs to identify key recreational (especially non-motorized) areas that are in the cumulative impacts region of the project to determine strategies for mining that will not undermine the recreational aspects of the lands. One area we are aware of is the Six Mile Canyon, and there are undoubtedly other areas.

Cultural Issues

1. Archeological The project area must be surveyed for historical and archeological artifacts, and mitigation plans must be developed for any of these sites.

2. Native American Cultural In the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), Congress stated that "[i]t shall be the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions." 42 USC § 1996 (1982). The BLM must analyze the cumulative impact to the ability of Native Americans to fully practice the traditional religions within the study area (at least as defined by the mines delineated on page two above). The analysis must include both known sacred and spiritual sites as well as traditional food and medicine gathering, important components of traditional practice.

3. Western Shoshone Lands In the event that the project is within land outlined in the Treaty of Ruby Valley, between the United States and the Western Shoshone Nation, mineral rights were reserved and therefore continue to belong to the Western Shoshone Nation. The use of "gradual encroachment" is not a legally valid method of title transfer or extinguishment under existing federal law or recognized standards of human rights. From February 20 - March 10, 2006 the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, issued a decision of an "Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure" handed down to the United States of America. The decision pertains to US lands and therefore BLM or Forest Service public lands on which the project may in part be located. The relevant aspect of this decision is that the U.S. is to "freeze any plan to privatize Western Shoshone ancestral lands for transfer to multinational extractive industries and energy developers, and desist from all activities planned and/or conducted on the ancestral lands of Western Shoshone or in relation to their natural resources, which are being carried out without consultation with and despite protests of the Western Shoshone peoples." Thus, the project must seek consultation and permission from the Western Shoshone on their lands.

Cumulative Issues

The EIS should also examine how the various impacts of this mine will add to the collective impacts of other ecosystem disturbing projects in the region. For example, could mercury emissions from the mine when taken together with other mercury sources in the region result in mercury exceedence according to the Clean Air Act. Or, does the mine disturbance further impair

the regional ecosystem resulting in seriously threatening fauna and/or flora. The cumulative impact analysis needs to address cultural traditions as well, such as the pine nut harvest.

A cumulative impact is *"the impact on the environment which results from incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time."*⁶ This definition is critical to determining the proper area to be studied in a cumulative impact assessment.

Again, we would like to emphasize the special character of the North Pequops. There is also mining exploration on the west side of the range and given that Newmont has purchased extensive mining claims along the North Pequops it is highly likely that additional mining operations are possible. BLM must evaluate any potential for future mining and other projects and how the wilderness character of the lands would be affected, and if so, a mitigation plan that will allow these lands to be available for wilderness as they are now.

If you have any questions regarding any of our comments feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



John Hadder
Director

¹ BLM, *Cortez Hills Expansion Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*, January 2011. pp. 3-34 to 3-35.

² Ports, Mark L., *Biogeographic and Taxonomic Relationships among the Mountain Snails (Gastropoda: Oreobeliceridae) of the Central Great Basin*, *Western North American Naturalist* 64(2), 2004, pp. 145-154.

³ Nevada Natural Heritage Program. 2006. Scorecard 2006: Highest Priority Conservation Sites. Carson City, Nevada.

⁴ BLM, *Expanded Long Canyon Exploration Project Elko County, Nevada, Environmental Assessment EA#:* DOI-BLM-NV-N030-2011-0001, pp 3-12 – 3-14, June 2011.

⁵ Public Law 88-577 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), Section 1(c).

⁶ 40 CFR § 1506.7

19 Newmont - Barto, Doug

From: Doug Barto [<mailto:Doug.Barto@Newmont.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 12:30 PM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: Long Canyon EIS scoping comment

Attention: Whitney Wirthlin

I would like to provide comment relative to the Long Canyon Project in Elko County, Nevada.

I would like to ensure the EIS does analyze the positive impact of employment from 300-500 jobs (both direct and indirect) that will be provided by the Long Canyon project. In this period when the economy of the nation is ailing and is slow to recover, the potential for creation of high paying jobs with substantial benefits is badly needed.

The project would not have the potential to create acid drainage and alternative water sources for the Cities of Wendover and West Wendover can be provided to offset any impact the project may have on the Big Springs water source. Observations made while working in and around minesites for a number of years indicate wildlife does utilize operating minesites extensively.

I urge the BLM to provide a defensible, high quality NEPA document, with a record of decision as quickly as possible. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Long Canyon Project

Sincerely,

Doug Barto

Winnemucca, Nevada

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=====

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20 Barthold, Bradley

From: berthold brad [<mailto:brad13@freemail.hu>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 1:25 PM

To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine

Subject: Pequot Wilderness destruction

To whom it may concern:

My name is Bradley Berthold and I am resident of the Central Nevada Mountains, specifically the Toquima Range (Manhattan). I was recently alerted by GBRW of an impending plan for an extensive mining project on BLM land in the Pequot Mountains. I am concerned that such an operation would be detrimental to the `wilderness` characteristics of the Pequots. While not technically a designated `wilderness` as such, the BLM has determined that the area has possess characteristics worthy of such protection.

My concerns regarding this project are three fold:

1. To what extent will this sizeable project disrupt the fauna/flora of the Pequots, specifically that of mule deer, sage grouse and bats?
2. To what extent will the local water aquifers be depleted, thus adversely affecting the flora/fauna populations of the area?
3. Finally, I feel strongly that Nevada`s most treasured assets are its rugged wilderness lands, most of which are public domain lands (BLM/USFS). By allowing mining companies to radically alter...i.e. destroy... the integrity of such lands, not only denies future generations the chance to appreciate them, but points to the failure of federal agencies i.e. BLM/USFS to adequately defend and protect lands that by their very nature belong to all Americans.

I sincerely hope that the BLM will reconsider its plan to allow mining companies access to these pristine mountains.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely,

Bradley Berthold
Manhattan, Nevada
775-487-2488

21 USDA Rural Development - Alder, Sarah

From: Taylor, Jenny - RD, Carson City, NV [<mailto:Jenifer.Taylor@nv.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 2:08 PM
To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine
Cc: Adler, Sarah - RD, Carson City, NV
Subject: Newmont Long Canyon Mine

Please find attached a letter from USDA Rural Development State Director Sarah Adler.

Jenny Taylor | Secretary to the State Director
USDA Rural Development
1390 S. Curry Street | Carson City, NV. 89703-5146
Phone: 775.887.1222 x100 | Fax: 775.885.0841
Email: jenifer.taylor@nv.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.gov

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United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Nevada State Office

September 4, 2012

Ms. Whitney Wirthlin
BLM Elko District Office
Wells Field Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

RE: Proposed Long Canyon Mine Plan of Operation – Impact to City of West Wendover, NV

Dear Ms. Wirthlin:

USDA Rural Development wishes to express the agency's support of the City of West Wendover's position in regards to the Long Canyon Mine and the impacts and potential impacts to the Johnson Spring and water resources in the Goshute Valley.

The City of West Wendover (City) has borrowed extensively (\$5.3 million) and has also received over \$1 million in grant funding from USDA Rural Development to make improvements to Johnson Spring, the Shafter well(s), and transmission lines from both sources to the City. The agency is concerned that if Johnson Springs is adversely impacted as a source of water, the City may have to contend with obtaining or being provided a different source of water with unknown quality or quantity. The agency has concerns that the City may permanently lose access to and use of what has proven to be a reliable, long-term source of high quality drinking water; further, the agency is concerned about retaining the quality of the water at the site, again forcing costs in either accessing a new source of water or more extensive treatment of Johnson Spring water.

If the City has to utilize a new well source this will add additional operational costs that are not currently being incurred to obtain water from Johnson Springs. These costs, in addition to paying off debt for unused facilities, will place an economic burden on the City that will be passed along to the residents.

It should be noted in addition that the City has had to borrow funds to develop many portions of its community infrastructure, not only its water system. West Wendover has incurred indebtedness with USDA Rural Development of over \$18 million across thirteen projects since 1995 for community facilities and infrastructure. Thus, not only may the effects of the mining operations force the City and its residents to pay more for potentially lesser quality water, or even force it to abandon facilities for which it must continue to repay debt, the City and its residents are already repaying a large amount of debt in which they have willingly invested to responsibly build their community. Adding to the costs of infrastructure is of grave concern to

1390 S. Curry Street • Carson City, Nevada 89703-5146
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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

USDA Rural Development, as it would add additional burden to the City and its residents and put at risk the City's ability to repay all of the debt it owes to the federal government.

The potential for the expansion of the mining industry into eastern Elko County is an exciting opportunity for our state, and the City of West Wendover, thanks to its long term vision, is prepared as a community to offer much to meet the needs of the mines and their employees. Part of what they will need is a reliable source of quality community water at a reasonable cost. An adverse impact to the community water system caused by the mining operations would negatively affect the City's ability to continue to grow and diversify its economy.

USDA Rural Development is a proponent of business development, but it should be pursued without compromising a critical water resource for the City of West Wendover, which has been obtained by the City through years of effort and millions of dollars in indebtedness.



SARAH ADLER
State Director

22 Nevada Division of State Lands

From: Skip Canfield [<mailto:scanfield@lands.nv.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 2:41 PM
To: Ellis-Wouters, Lesli J; BLM_NV_ELDO LongCanyonMine
Cc: scanfield@lands.nv.gov
Subject: State Agency Comments E2013-014 Scoping - Long Canyon Mine

The Nevada State Clearinghouse received the attached comments and the comments below regarding this proposal,

<http://clearinghouse.nv.gov/public/Notice/2013/E2013-014.pdf>

Skip Canfield
Nevada State Clearinghouse
State Land Use Planning Agency

Nevada Division of State Lands
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5003
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-2723
<http://clearinghouse.nv.gov>
www.lands.nv.gov

The Nevada Division of State Lands and the State Land Use Planning Agency offer the following comments:

Multiple use activities on Nevada's public lands are supported and encouraged. Please consider the cumulative visual impacts to public lands users' experiences from certain activities (temporary and permanent). Some notable activities include proliferation of new roads, poorly-sited and designed structures, lack of co-location of infrastructure and improper lighting, to name a few.

The following language is suggested that should be provided up front to applicants who propose development on public lands:

Utilize appropriate lighting:

Utilize consistent lighting mitigation measures that follow "Dark Sky" lighting practices.

Effective lighting should have screens that do not allow the bulb to shine up or out. All proposed lighting shall be located to avoid light pollution onto any adjacent lands as viewed from a distance. All lighting fixtures shall be hooded and shielded, face downward, located within soffits and directed on to the pertinent site only, and away from adjacent parcels or areas.

A lighting plan should be submitted indicating the types of lighting and fixtures, the locations of fixtures, lumens of lighting, and the areas illuminated by the lighting plan.

Any required FAA lighting should be consolidated and minimized wherever possible.

In addition, the following mitigation measures should be employed.

Utilize building materials, colors and site placement that are compatible with the natural environment:

Utilize consistent mitigation measures that address logical placement of improvements and use of appropriate screening and structure colors. Existing utility corridors, roads and areas of disturbed land should be utilized wherever possible. Proliferation of new roads should be avoided.

For example, the use of compatible paint colors on structures reduces the visual impacts of the built environment. Using screening, careful site placement, and cognitive use of earth-tone colors/materials that match the environment improve the user experience for others who might have different values than what is fostered by built environment activities.

Federal agencies should require these mitigation measures as conditions of approval for all permanent and temporary applications.

Skip Canfield

State Land Use Planning Agency

23 Nevada Department of Transportation - Ramirez, Joe

From: Compton, Mary T [tcompton@dot.state.nv.us]

Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 11:01 AM

To: Skip Canfield

Subject: RE: Nevada State Clearinghouse Notice E2013-014

Please see enclosed remarks from NDOT in the comments section. Thanks, Terri

AGENCY COMMENTS:

From our traffic and permit sections, our comments are as follows:

1. A traffic study should be done for the interchange to check geometry at interchange for the mine traffic and other vehicles.
2. It appears that the relocation of CR 790 will remove NDOT's access to Material Site EL 87-01 (E1/2 E1/2 NE1/4 Sec 10 T36N R66E). We use the county road in its current location for access. The map (Figure 7) seems to show the new location will not touch the material site.
3. Is the eastbound off-ramp radius sufficient to accommodate equipment being moved to the site without changing the control of access opening width on the south side of IR-80? The existing control of access openings are 30' according to my records. Increasing a control of access opening requires going through FHWA and may take time, and possibly will require permit payment of some sort.
4. Can the structure underpass on SR-233 accommodate equipment being moved to the site from the east? If not, what is their alternate delivery plan? Access to project site from IR-80 is limited to existing interchange (control of access fence shall not be cut).
5. New power line crossing IR-80 will need to be permitted if that power option is selected.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Joe Ramirez, P.E.
Traffic Engineer
(775) 777-2733

Signature:

Date:

Requested By:

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24 Nevada DEP- Bureau of Water Pollution Control - Lanza, Alexi

From: Alex Lanza

Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 3:36 PM

To: Skip Canfield

Subject: RE: Nevada State Clearinghouse Notice E2013-014 - Scoping - Long Canyon Mine

Good afternoon Skip;

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) - Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC) - does not have any comments regarding notice **E2013-014 - Scoping - Long Canyon Mine, Nevada.**

Please note that the entity who manages this **E2013-014 - Scoping - Long Canyon Mine Project** may be subject to BWPC permitting associated with any of its discharges – including, but not limited to but not limited to well development, wastewater, Diminimis, UIC, and domestic sewage discharges.

Thank you for the information and the opportunity to comment.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (775) 687-9468.

Respectfully,

Alexi Lanza

Alexi Lanza, P.E.

Permits Branch - Bureau of Water Pollution Control

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

901 S. Stewart St., Ste 4001

Carson City NV 89701

Phone: 775.687.9468 - Fax: 775.687.4684

www.ndep.nv.gov

Please visit BWPC's main website: <http://ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/index.htm>

Please join our electronic mailing lists: <http://ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/email.htm>

25 Nevada SHPO - Palmer, Rebecca Lynn

From: Rebecca Palmer

Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 10:42 AM

To: Skip Canfield

Subject: RE: Nevada State Clearinghouse Notice E2013-014 Scoping - Long Canyon Mine

The SHPO supports the documents submitted at this time; however, this office suggests that any public scoping meetings should include a discussion of the recently executed MOA for Section 106 compliance with this undertaking.

Rebecca Lynn Palmer

Deputy Historic Preservation Officer

901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5004

Carson City NV 89701

Phone (775) 684-3443

Fax (775) 684-3442

Please note, my email is rlpalmer@shpo.nv.gov

26 Nevada Department of Wildlife - Jenne, Alan

From: Alan Jenne [<mailto:ajenne@ndow.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Fuell, Bryan K; Wirthlin, Whitney J
Cc: Kari Huebner; Scott Roberts; Ken Gray
Subject: Long Canyon scoping comment letter

Bryan attached is our Long Canyon comment letter. Since I am out of town the original signature document will be making its way through the mail.

Thanks

Alan Jenne
Supervising Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Elko, NV. 89801
775-777-2306
ajenne@ndow.org



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

KENNETH E. MAYER
Acting Director

RICHARD L. HASKINS, II
Deputy Director

PATRICK O. CATES
Deputy Director

September 4, 2012

Bryan Fuell
Bureau of Land Management
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, NV. 89801

RE: Long Canyon Mine Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Fuell,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on Newmont Mining Corporations proposed Long Canyon Mine project. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is concerned with direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to wildlife resources and their habitats. We appreciate the opportunity to assist as a cooperating agency and are committed to working with BLM and Newmont to assess, analyze and offset project related wildlife impacts. We also wish to acknowledge Newmont's effort in seeking and incorporating our informal input for this proposed Long Canyon Plan of Operations (POO) long before this formal comment letter.

The proposed Long Canyon project area on the south end of the Pequop Range contains and is adjacent to some very important wildlife habitat. Every year thousands of Area 7 mule deer migrate from their summer ranges in the north to reach critical winter range habitat adjacent to the project boundary or further to the south where they will reside during the tough winter months. From the earliest conversations regarding this project location NDOW has voiced our concerns with this project impacting or interrupting access to and the use of seasonal winter ranges for mule deer. However, through the preliminary collaborative analysis Newmont and NDOW have made meaningful progress in identifying and incorporating un-impacted, naturally vegetated migration corridors through the Project boundaries. While we understand that this project feature is not yet finalized we wish to acknowledge Newmont's funding assistance for a deer collaring project which is helping to refine the design of potential migration corridors and providing meaningful pre-project data that maybe used as part

of a monitoring program. Incorporation of these measures in conjunction with concurrent reclamation and incorporation of the existing guidance supplied within the Area 6 Mule Deer Working Group Habitat Management Practices (copy to be supplied) will be key to minimizing mine related impacts to one of Nevada's largest and most important deer herds.

NDOW also has concerns with potential project related impacts to sage grouse and their habitats. The pending U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service listing decision of this species makes it imperative for all parties to make every effort to avoid and minimize project related impacts. Locating project facilities such as roads and structures in lesser quality sage grouse habitats, like pinyon – juniper and salt desert shrub zones, will help minimize significant impacts to sage grouse. Additionally, efforts to collar sage grouse will hopefully provide spatial use data to further evaluate project design possibilities and eventually propose the most meaningful mitigation for the bird.

In summary, NDOW is concerned with the potential impacts of this project on associated and adjacent wildlife resources and as such are committed to assisting the BLM and Newmont to develop, assess, and analyze project design measures to avoid, minimize or offset those impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this FIS process and to express our concerns regarding this project. We understand that in managing Nevada's wildlife, NDOW is reliant upon BLM making well informed decisions regarding care of the habitats provided on federally-managed land. If you have questions or would like to further discuss this Project please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Alan Jenne

Alan Jenne
Supervisory Habitat Biologist

27 Parson Behle & Latimer - de Lipkau, Ross

50 West Liberty Street
Suite 750
Reno, Nevada 89501
Telephone: 775.323.1601
Facsimile: 775.348.7250



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Ross E. de Lipkau

Direct Dial
(775) 789-6545
E-Mail
RdeLipkau@parsonsflex.com

August 24, 2012

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Ms. Whitney Wirthlin
BLM Elko District Office
Wells Field Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Re: Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) Plan of Operation for Surface
Mining in Ore Processing, Long Canyon Project – Elko County, Nevada

Dear Ms. Wirthlin:

This is to inform you that this firm represents the City of West Wendover, Nevada (hereinafter “West Wendover”).

The purpose of this letter is to comment upon the Plan of Operation filed with your office on March 22, 2011 by Newmont Mining Corporation. The applicant will be hereinafter referred to as “Newmont.”

It is the position of West Wendover that Newmont presently has no water rights appurtenant to the proposed Long Canyon Project which may be used for mining and milling purposes.

As you are probably aware, West Wendover is the owner of Permit 28527, Certificate 12918, which abrogated Permit 11047, Certificate 2936, which in turn abrogated Permit 2210, Certificate 440. The priority of West Wendover’s water rights, with Johnson Springs (also known as “Big Springs”) as its source, is September 16, 1911. Simply put, certificated permit 28527, now in effect, authorizes West Wendover the first 1.0 cubic feet per second (cfs) emanating from Johnson, a/k/a Big Springs. This right cannot be conflicted with or impaired by any subsequent change of any other right from the same source. If a conflict were to occur, Nevada water law requires the Nevada State Engineer to regulate the sources based upon priority. The result would be a curtailment or stoppage of Newmont’s pumping. Municipal water for the citizens of West Wendover takes legal precedent over changes to mining and milling uses. It is this interest which must be protected in order to properly serve the citizens of West Wendover, which has occurred from approximately 1943 to present.

15984.007/4842-4313-7040.1

The specific comments or objections, on behalf of West Wendover to the proposed Plan of Operation are as follows:

A. Newmont has not indicated that water is available for its contemplated mining operations.

B. Newmont has not stated whether there will be impacts to public water supplies (Big Springs or Johnson Springs) or, if there are, how to mitigate them.

C. Newmont has not indicated that it owns any water right that the Bureau of Land Management is required to confirm as suitable for mining purposes, and the impact when such rights are developed.

Newmont has not followed the statutory water permit proceedings, as set forth in Chapters 533 and 534 of Nevada Revised Statutes. Briefly summarized, the procedural issues are as follows:

1. Newmont, assuming it acquired water rights from its predecessor in interest, has failed to comply with NRS 533.384(1). That statute reads in part as follows:

"A person to who is conveyed an application or permit to appropriate any of the public waters, a certificate of appropriation . . . shall: (a) file with the State Engineer, together with the prescribed fee . . . "

Newmont has failed to comply with this statute, assuming it is in fact the owner of water rights.

2. Assuming Newmont has acquired water rights for its contemplated mining operation, it has failed to file applications to change, as required by NRS 533.325, which reads in part as follows:

"Any person who wishes to appropriate any of the public waters, or to change the place of diversion...shall, before performing any work in connection with such appropriation, change in place of diversion... apply to the State Engineer for a permit to do so."

As set forth above, no applications to change have been submitted to the Nevada State Engineer. Accordingly, Newmont has no water rights with which to support its mining operation. The Plan of Operation should therefore be stayed pending completion of

Ms. Whitney Wirthlin
August 24, 2012
Page Three

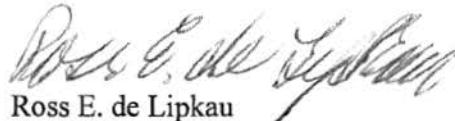
any and all water right issues, including a fully executed Agreement between Newmont and West Wendover. It is also significant that, pursuant to NRS 533.365, any interested party may file a written protest against the granting of the application. Assuming an application is filed and protested, the State Engineer, in his discretion, may conduct an administrative hearing as set forth in NRS 533.365(3). The State Engineer's decision following the hearing may then be subject to an appeal to district court.¹

The State Engineer's decision to grant or deny an application to appropriate or an application to Change is guided by NRS 533.370(2). Here, the issue is whether the granting of the application "... conflicts with existing rights or with protectable interest in domestic wells ...". In that regard, West Wendover believes that it will be able to establish at an administrative hearing before the State Engineer that the contemplated development of water resources by Newmont would adversely affect and impair the surface water supply of West Wendover. West Wendover is, and has been since approximately 1943, dependent upon Permit 28527, and prior to that, on Certificated Permit 11047.

West Wendover requests that your agency take these factors into account in evaluating Newmont's proposed Plan of Operation.

Respectfully submitted,

Parsons Behle & Latimer


Ross E. de Lipkau

RED/rt

cc: Client

¹ NRS 533.450(1) reads in part as follows:

"Any person feeling aggrieved by any Order or Decision of the State Engineer, acting in person or through assistance, may have the same review by proceeding for that purpose,..."

Therefore, a very lengthy and complicated procedure, with an uncertain outcome, may follow if and when Newmont files its applications to change.

28 DuBois, Mark

Bureau of Land Management
Wells Field Office
Attention: Whitney Wirthlin
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
2012 SEP -4 PM 12: 52

August 29, 2012

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

This letter is in support of Newmont Mining Corporation's Proposed Action to develop and operate the Long Canyon Mine Project:

1. I believe that all environmental concerns will be addressed and that there will be no significant adverse impacts to the environment.
2. Newmont has a history of operating in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.
3. In addition, the Project will make a valuable contribution to the local economy.

Thank you,



Mark DuBois
3435 Enfield Ave.
Elko, NV 89801
m_d_dubois@yahoo.com
775-738-4208

29 Hancock, Charles

Charles E. Hancock
2130 Pine Ridge Drive
Reno, Nevada 89509
Elko District, Bureau of Land Management
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
207 SEP -4 PM 1:04

Attention: Whitney Wirthlin

Subject: Long Canyon Project

Dear Mr. Wirthlin:

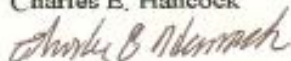
I have learned that Newmont Mining Corporation proposes to construct and operate an open pit mine in the Pequop Mountains in Elko County. BLM-administered lands will be involved. Having hunted for years in this area, I have serious concerns over an open pit operation that could become "cancerous", growing and growing, having serious impacts on wildlife movement and migration, springs, and ground water.

Please place my name on your mailing list for future copies of studies, correspondence, proposed decisions, etc., related to this proposed project.

And please answer these questions:

1. Were news releases for this proposed project provided for publication in the Reno newspaper (Reno Gazette Journal)?
2. Why were public scoping meetings limited to Wendover, Wells, and Elko? The Nevada Department of Wildlife issues over a thousand permits to hunters in 077 and adjoining units for deer, elk, and antelope. Very few Nevada hunters are aware of the potential problems this Project would create on wildlife in the Pequops.
3. I assume Newmont has mining claims located on BLM-administered lands that will be involved in the proposed project and future expansion. Are these claims lode, millsite, or placer? How many additional claims on public lands for future expansion does Newmont have in the immediate area?
4. What is the legal description of the public lands initially involved in the proposed project?
5. I would like a copy of a map showing the location of the proposed site and support facilities. Thank you.

Charles E. Hancock



30 Wells Band Council, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone - Franco, Karen



WELLS BAND COUNCIL
TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE
P.O. Box 809 ~ Wells, Nevada 89835
(775) 752-3045 ~ Fax (775) 752-2179

August 30, 2012

BLM Elko District Office
Attn: Whitney Wirthlin
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Ms. Wirthlin:

On behalf of Wells Band Council, I would like to take this opportunity to submit our comments regarding Newmont Mining Corporation's proposed Long Canyon mine.

From our perspective, the construction and operation of this mine will provide positive benefits to the Wells Colony community as well as to Elko County and state-wide tax revenues.

Although it is too early to project the number of visitors and new residents (contractors and employees) to this area, we believe that the potential for spending will benefit our community as a whole. Further, Newmont has a strong history of making social investments in communities within their service areas. This can only be viewed as a positive.

Finally, other communities along the northern Nevada corridor report that Newmont views environmental responsibility as a way of life.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Karen Franco – Vice Chairwoman
Wells Band Council

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31 Rainbow, Peppermill, and Montego Bay Casinos - Lewis, Gary

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PAGE 01/02

To: Ms. Whitney Wirthlin

BLM Elko District Office

Wells Field Office 3900 E. Idaho Street

Elko, NV 89801

Fax – 775-753-0385

Re: Long Canyon Project

From: Gary Lewis

Vice President Operations

Rainbow, Peppermill, and Montego Bay Casinos

Fax – 775-664-6752



Ms Whitney Wirthlin
BLM Elko District Office
Wells Field Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Re: Newmont Mining Corporation - Long Canyon Project

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

The purpose of this letter is to provide comment on the above referenced planned project. Peppermill Casinos Inc and Wendover Casinos Inc operate three Casino Hotel properties in West Wendover, Nevada. Between the two corporations we employ approximately 1800 residents of the West Wendover community. We felt it our obligation to provide our comments and concerns regarding the impact of the Long Canyon Project.

Peppermill supports and welcomes the Newmont Long Canyon Project to the Wendover area. This project would provide new job opportunities to the residents of the community as well as new individuals moving to the area resulting in the growth and strengthening of the local economy. Newmont has already shown support of various community projects and we would expect this support to continue throughout the life of the project.

We must, however, also express concerns. We understand this project will be located within a few miles of the Johnson Springs Water System, which provides 30% of the water to this community. Due to the proximity of Johnson Springs to Long Canyon Project, we understand that Newmont has requested that the rights to the Springs be turned over to them with the intent of replacing it with a new system located elsewhere. We feel that as the major employer in the community it our responsibility to express our concerns regarding any negative impact to the community water supply and our employees and their families. We would request that the BLM carefully evaluate the replacement plan proposed by Newmont to insure that any alternate water source draws from a new, untapped aquifer providing like quality water that the Johnson Spring System currently provides.

The Peppermill welcomes and supports the Long Canyon Project with the caveat that the future water supply plans protecting the community must first be solidified. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Lewis
Vice President Operations
Wendover Properties

Rainbow • PO Box 2000 • West Wendover, NV 89883 • 775-664-4000 • 800-217-0049
Peppermill • PO Box 3700 • West Wendover, NV 89883 • 775-664-2255 • 800-648-9660
Montego Bay • PO Box 3669 • West Wendover, NV 89883 • 775-664-9100 • 877-666-8346

32 Cantrell, Katrina

From: Katrina Cantrell [<mailto:kcantrell@telis.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 5:18 PM
To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine
Cc: john@gbw.org; 'Paul Findlay'
Subject: Comment

Please reply to this submission.
Thank you,
Katrina

Katrina Cantrell
kcantrell@telis.org

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September 4, 2012

Whitney Wirthlin
Bureau of Land Management
Wells Field Office Geologist
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

RE: Comments for the Long Canyon Mine Project from a Western Shoshone Tribal Member

Dear Ms. Wirthlin:

I am appalled at the opening of a new mining region in the North Pequops Range. This range holds significant cultural and historical value for native peoples of the area.

How do you propose to protect the wildlife, water, and flora and fauna? How do you plan to ensure that the egregious gaseous emissions from mine sites do not impact the human family? How will you protect the water, which is the life force of all creatures on this earth?

I would also like to inquire as to who you are contacting in the Western Shoshone region to consult with on areas of religious and cultural significance? I am requesting an answer to these questions within ten business days.

This earth is in peril, and the continued degradation of water, soil and air by mining practices that were never to reach the levels of destruction that they are today are threatening to all god's creatures.

Sincerely,

Katrina Maczen-Cantrell
PO Box 254
Round Mountain, CA 96084
kcantrell@telis.org

33 Wells Family Resource Center



Wells Family Resource & Cultural Center

261 First Street * P.O. Box 773 * Wells, NV 89835
Telephone: (775) 752-2345 * Fax: (775) 752-3079
Email: frc@wellsrec.net

BLM Elko District Office
Wells Field Office
Attn: Whitney Wirthlin
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

Re: Comments related to the Long Canyon Mine Project
Federal Register/ Vol.77, No. 139/ Thursday/July/19/2012/Notices

Dear Ms. Wirthlin:

The Wells Family Resource and Cultural Center (WFRC) is a 501C3 non-profit agency providing day care, early childhood education and social services to the community of Wells and surrounding areas.

WFRC knows of no issues, beyond those preliminary issues identified by the BLM, that would influence the scope of the environmental analysis for the Long Canyon Mine Project. WFRC supports this project and looks forward to growing and expanding WFRC services to meet community needs based on projected population growth associated with the project.

Sincerely,

Kenny Huff, Board President
Wells Family Resource Center

cc: Arial Howell, Executive Director
WFRC Board Members

34 US Environmental Protection Agency



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

OCT 02 2012

Whitney Wirthlin
BLM Elko District Office,
Wells Field Office
3900 E. Idaho Street,
Elko, Nevada 89801

Subject: Long Canyon Mine Project Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, Elko County, Nevada

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed your Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above referenced project. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508.

The scope of subjects that should be included in the EIS is described in the enclosed detailed comments. Topics include geochemistry, water resources, air quality, vegetation and wildlife, mining waste, reclamation and post-closure, cumulative impacts, environmental justice, tribal consultation, pollution prevention, and land use.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide scoping comments for this project. Please note that starting October 1, 2012, EPA Headquarters will not accept paper copies or CDs of EISs for official filing purposes. Submissions on or after October 1, 2012 must be made through EPA's new electronic EIS submittal tool: *e-NEPA*. To begin using *e-NEPA*, you must first register with EPA's electronic reporting site - https://cdx.epa.gov/epa_home.asp. Electronic submission does not change requirements for distribution of EISs for public review and comment, and lead agencies should still provide one hard copy of each Draft and Final EIS to the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco (mailcode CED-2) when it is released for public circulation. If you have questions, please call me at (415) 972-3815.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carter Jessop".

Carter Jessop
Environmental Review Office

Enclosures: EPA Detailed Scoping Comments
cc: Bruce Holmgren, NDEP

Long Canyon Mine Project
EPA Detailed Scoping Comments – October, 2012

General Comments

The EIS should demonstrate that all reasonable alternatives to proposed actions have been examined and that appropriate mitigation measures have been thoroughly considered and incorporated into the project. The EIS should provide substantial detail on the means of implementing mitigation measures, and should also identify how monitoring would be established to ensure compliance and assess effectiveness of mitigation.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1502.24, agencies are required to insure the professional integrity, including scientific integrity, of the discussions and analyses in the EIS. Any methodologies used should be identified, and the scientific and other sources relied upon for conclusions in the statement should be referenced.

Purpose and Need

The EIS should include a clear description of the project's purpose and need. The *purpose* of the proposed action is typically the specific objectives of the activity, while the *need* for the proposed action may be to eliminate a broader underlying problem or take advantage of an opportunity. The Purpose and Need for a project should be stated broadly enough to spur identification of the full range of reasonable range of alternatives, regardless of what the future findings of an alternatives analysis may be. The Purpose and Need should focus on the underlying problems to address (e.g., increasing demand for gold on the world market). Clear descriptions of project needs and objectives set the stage for thorough consideration of a range of alternatives and their effectiveness in meeting the needs and objectives of the project.

Alternatives

The EIS should rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, including reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of your agency (40 CFR 1502.14). The EIS should provide a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which were not evaluated in detail. The document should discuss potential environmental impacts of the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues among the options for decision makers and the public (40 CFR 1502.14). Reasonable alternatives could include, but are not necessarily limited to, alternative sites or alternative designs for major mining facilities (e.g., waste rock piles or heap leach facilities), smaller project, other viable ore bodies, different pit geometries, and pit backfilling; as well as any alternatives evaluated for purposes of obtaining a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 230. Alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, may also depend on the validity of mining claims. The EIS should identify the lode and mill site claims that are included in the proposed project and discuss their validity. The EIS should discuss the alternatives in the context of the validity of claims and BLM's authorities under the Mining Law, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and other relevant statutes and regulations.

Mitigation

The EIS should thoroughly identify and describe appropriate mitigation measures associated with the project, specifying which ones would be committed to by the mine operator and/or required by the BLM or other federal, state, or local agency. The EIS should address how each measure would specifically mitigate the targeted impact, provide substantial detail on the means of implementing each mitigation measure, identify who would be responsible for implementing it, indicate whether it is enforceable, and describe its anticipated effectiveness. For some impacts, there may be several appropriate and effective measures. Conversely, some measures may turn out to be less effective than anticipated; therefore, implementation and effectiveness monitoring should be conducted and contingency measures should be considered. We recommend the EIS describe the implementation and effectiveness monitoring that would be conducted and contingency measures that would be applied if initial mitigation measures fail.

Water Resources

1. The EIS should conduct a complete hydrologic characterization of the project vicinity and the cumulative impact area, describing all existing water resources and baseline groundwater and surface water quality, quantity, and flow regimes. Information on groundwater properties and groundwater/surface water connections (e.g., springs, seeps, interception of the water table by existing or proposed mine pits, etc.) are needed to identify and assess potential impacts to water resources and risks to receptors of contaminants. The EIS should identify any waters that are impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Streams that are already impaired are particularly sensitive to additional discharge loadings and will require a thorough impacts analysis. The EIS should specify any changes and analyze trends that could be attributed to past exploration or mining activities. Discuss groundwater adjudication in the project vicinity.
2. The EIS should identify all sources of water needed for the project, and describe the potential environmental impacts associated with using these sources. The EIS should describe pumping systems and estimate rates of dewatering and water use by the proposed project, as well as all other water use in the vicinity. The EIS should identify direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to surface water flow, water supply wells, wetlands, springs and seeps, vegetation, wildlife, and other groundwater-dependent resources as a result of groundwater pumping associated with the proposed project. The EIS should describe the post-closure groundwater elevation recovery and the time period in which groundwater quantity impacts are anticipated to abate. Based upon the March 2011 Plan of Operations for Surface Mining and Ore Processing for the Long Canyon Project, we understand that the proposed pit is not anticipated to intercept the bedrock aquifer in the project area. The EIS should describe the potential to encounter perched or other shallow aquifers and rates of dewater required to prevent this water from entering the pit.
3. The EIS should completely describe the pre-mining and current drainage patterns in the project area, as well as the projected drainage patterns (including post-closure drainage patterns) under each alternative. Include hydrologic and topographic maps of the project area and cumulative impact area. This discussion should address potential effects of the project on erosion potential and sedimentation. Identify any components of the proposed project that would fall within 25- and 100-year flood plains. Discuss the potential for runoff to transport sediment

or contaminants from disturbed areas at the mine to any surface waters.

4. The EIS should describe the applicable state-adopted, EPA-approved water quality standards, including beneficial uses, and discuss each alternative's compliance with these standards. The EIS should describe and discuss the permits that would be required by state and federal agencies for water resources related to the project.

5. The EIS should discuss the applicability of Nevada's General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity from Metal Mining Activities to this project. The EIS should include a storm water pollution prevention plan and discuss specific mitigation measures that may be necessary during operations, closure, and post-closure. The EIS should describe how the project will either achieve zero discharge or meet permitting requirements for discharges to surface waters. Discuss whether an individual National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required for any phase of the mining project.

6. The EIS should describe all existing and potential future surface water discharges from the project, including storm water and mine drainage, and include a map depicting locations of all discharge outfalls. The EIS should describe the potential effects of all potential project discharges, seepage, diversions, and groundwater pumping on surface water and groundwater quality and quantity.

7. The EIS should discuss all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to surface water and groundwater quality and quantity from the proposed project and alternatives both during operations and after closure. For the proposed off-site ore processing, the EIS should assess the impacts to the off-site processing location. The EIS should describe all potential project discharges, seepage, pit lake formation, diversions, groundwater pumping, evaporation from pit lakes, as well as the potential effects of these activities on water rights, beneficial uses, and wildlife.

- Discuss the potential for contamination of precipitation that contacts existing and proposed waste rock, heap leach pads, stockpiles, roads, and other mine facilities.
- Describe the projected chemical characterization of water in open ponds located at the site, including open pits if pit lakes would form following closure.
- Discuss the potential for and effects of movement of any contaminated surface water to the subsurface.
- Describe the designs of the existing and proposed run-on/run-off channels, dams, seepage collection systems, collection and sedimentation ponds, pump back systems, and any necessary treatment or disposal of these solutions. Depict these facilities on a map.
- Describe flow velocities of all discharges to surface waters and discuss whether these discharges could adversely affect these waters.
- Describe mitigation measures to prevent contamination of water and sediment.

8. Discuss how accidental releases of hazardous materials would be handled. Identify the potential impacts of failure of the solution containment systems, methods for discovering such failures, and the degree to which impacts would be reversible. Describe the mine's petroleum-contaminated soil management plan.

9. The EIS should describe procedures for water quality and quantity monitoring and reporting as well as monitoring the functioning of the run-on/run-off channels, sedimentation ponds, and other mitigation measures at the mine. Describe all surface water monitoring locations, groundwater monitoring wells, and points of compliance on the site. Monitoring frequencies, screening intervals, and parameters to be monitored should be discussed.

10. The geochemical testing performed for the project should be summarized in detail in the Draft EIS. This information is important in properly identifying the project's potential impacts and addressing them through facility design and mitigation measures. The EIS should discuss the geochemistry and acid generation/neutralization potential of waste rock, pit wall rock, ore and tailings. Describe the static and kinetic tests that have been conducted on ore and waste rock to characterize them, and provide the test results. The EIS should include cross-sections showing locations of static and kinetic test samples and describe and discuss their representativeness. The EIS should also provide past and current monitoring results/trends for surface water and groundwater quality at the existing mines, and discuss their relevance in predicting potential for, and protecting against, contaminated drainage from existing and future mine facilities.

According to the April 2012 Long Canyon Geological Characterization Report prepared by SRK, the static and kinetic testwork performed to date indicate that the waste rock and ore represent a low risk for acid-mine drainage. However, testing indicates that arsenic, antimony, mercury and thallium are all expected to be mobile under non-acidic conditions. The EIS should describe the measures that will be put into place to ensure that ground and surface water resources will be protected from contamination by both acid and non-acid related leachate. The Geological Characterization Report also indicates that numerical predictive calculations will be carried out to assess the metal leaching capacity of the waste and ore and the risk presented to the environment. The EIS should describe the results of this modeling and any additional fate and transport modeling performed for potential contaminated discharge from the project site. In light of the project's proximity to the surface water resource at Big Spring, monitoring should be in place to ensure that the water chemistry is not adversely affected or beneficial uses impaired by the mine.

The EIS should include the Long Canyon Waste Rock Characterization Report as an appendix or provide an appropriate summary in the text of the EIS. The EIS should describe all facility design features and control measures that would be implemented to protect against degradation of surface water and groundwater quality, and any additional mitigation measures that may be necessary should prevention measures fail.

11. The EIS should describe the procedures for monitoring the functioning of the waste rock dumps, stock piles, and heap leach pads in controlling contact between this material and surface or meteoric water (e.g., maintenance of run on/runoff channels, liners, underdrains, and collection areas at base of dumps; ponding on top of dumps; etc.). Effective chemical and/or physical controls to prevent uncontrolled seepage through waste rock, wall rock, stock piles, and spent ore should be thoroughly analyzed in the EIS.

Waters of the U.S.

1. BLM should coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the proposed project requires a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit. Section 404 regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands and other "special aquatic sites." The EIS should describe all waters of the U.S. that could be affected by the project, including past impacts. The discussion should include acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters. All required Federal and State permits for work potentially affecting wetlands or waters of the U.S. should be identified. The DEIS should address opportunities for improving the quality and quantity of these resources, if they exist in the area, through appropriate facilities design.
2. If a permit is required, EPA will review the project for compliance with Federal Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Materials (40 CFR 230), promulgated pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act ("404(b)(1) Guidelines"). Pursuant to 40 CFR 230, any permitted discharge into waters of the U.S. must be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative available to achieve the project purpose. The EIS should include an evaluation of the project alternatives in this context in order to demonstrate the project's compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. If, under the project alternatives, dredged or fill material would be discharged into waters of the U.S., the EIS should describe the potential environmental impacts and discuss alternatives to avoid or minimize those discharges.
3. If a discharge is permitted, required mitigation for impacts to waters of the U.S. should be identified and committed to in the EIS for evaluation by the public and decision-makers. Mitigation should be implemented in advance of the impacts to avoid habitat losses due to the lag time between the occurrence of the impact and successful mitigation. The discussion should include the following information:
 - Acreage and habitat type of waters of the U.S. that would be created or restored;
 - Water sources to maintain the mitigation area;
 - The revegetation plans including the numbers and age of each species to be planted;
 - Maintenance and monitoring plans, including performance standards to determine mitigation success;
 - The size and location of mitigation zones;
 - The parties that would be ultimately responsible for the plan's success; and
 - Contingency plans that would be implemented if the original plan fails.

Air Quality

1. The EIS should describe existing air quality in the project vicinity. The EIS should also discuss the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increments applicable to air quality in the project area. PSD increments exist for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and PM₁₀ (particulates smaller than 10 microns in diameter). Specifically, for Class II areas, the annual PSD increment for nitrogen dioxide is 25 microns per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$); the annual and 24-hour increments for PM₁₀ are 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and

30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; the annual PM_{2.5} increment is 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; and the annual, 24-hour and 3-hour increments for sulfur dioxide are 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 91 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and 512 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, respectively.

2. The EIS should estimate project emissions from all facilities and roads related to the mine's operations, including any off-site processing and support activities, such as vehicle traffic and delivery trucks for fuels, maintenance supplies, and other materials, as well as cumulative emissions from other sources in the project area. If additional exploratory drilling operations are to be included as part of the proposed project, the EIS should include the air emissions resulting from the construction and operation of these facilities, including those resulting from road construction and use. Modeling should be conducted to determine concentrations of criteria air pollutants for an accurate comparison with the NAAQS.

3. The EIS should discuss whether a PSD permit would be required for the proposed project. If a PSD permit is required, the mining company will need to determine increment consumption as well. If a PSD permit would not be required, the EIS should indicate whether the baseline date has been triggered for minor sources in the project area. Once the minor source baseline date has been triggered for a certain pollutant in a specified area, all emissions from minor sources of that pollutant consume increment. The EIS should discuss impacts to the NAAQS and PSD increments from projected emissions of the project and alternatives, considering the effects from all aspects of mine excavation, construction, operation, and support activities, such as vehicle traffic, as well as cumulative emissions from other sources in the project area. BLM should closely coordinate with NDEP regarding regulatory requirements and controls.

4. PSD increments are highly protective of air quality in Class I areas such as wilderness areas and national parks. The PSD increments for PM₁₀ in Class I areas are 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, for the annual and 24-hour standards, respectively; and the nitrogen dioxide annual increment is 2.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The EIS should identify all Class I PSD areas located within 100 kilometers of the proposed project site. Class I areas even further away could potentially be affected as well. BLM should consult with the U.S. Forest Service for a determination of which areas could be adversely affected by the proposed action. Potential impacts to Class I PSD areas, including visibility impacts, should be discussed.

5. The EIS should discuss mitigation measures to minimize air pollutant emissions from the mine. Conventional fugitive source controls include water application or use of chemical binders or wetting agents on roads and stockpiles, and revegetation of disturbed areas. Additional measures exist that could be used to control PM₁₀ emissions, as well as diesel particulate matter (DPM) and other criteria pollutants, from fugitive sources at the mine. We recommend the following additional emissions reduction measures.

- Use particle traps and other appropriate controls to reduce emissions of DPM and other air pollutants. Traps control approximately 80 percent of DPM, and specialized catalytic converters (oxidation catalysts) control approximately 20 percent of DPM, 40 percent of carbon monoxide emissions, and 50 percent of hydrocarbon emissions;
- Minimize construction-related trips of workers and equipment, including trucks and heavy equipment;
- Lease or buy newer, cleaner equipment (1996 or newer model);

- Employ periodic, unscheduled inspections to ensure that construction equipment is properly maintained at all times and does not unnecessarily idle, is tuned to manufacturer's specifications, and is not modified to increase horsepower except in accordance with established specifications.

6. The EIS should discuss whether and how air quality monitoring would be implemented to ensure project compliance with all applicable air quality standards and permits.

7. The March 2011 Plan of Operations made available on the BLM's website indicates that until the on-site mill is constructed, Newmont may haul ore production westward on I-80 to one of Newmont's existing ore processing facilities near Carlin, Nevada. The EIS should thoroughly describe all potential impacts associated with this action, including analysis of the additional pollutant emissions related to this activity and whether these emissions could result in exceedance of air quality standards.

Hazardous Air Pollutants

1. The EIS should estimate releases of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), including mercury, from the proposed project to air, soil, or water resources, including any off-site facility where ore may be processed.

2. The EIS should list major processing equipment, including any autoclave or roaster, stripping units, electrowinning units, retorts, refining furnaces, and carbon regeneration kilns. The EIS should list in detail all possible sources of HAPs and the unit processes that generate this material.

3. The EIS should discuss how all HAPs would be controlled to reduce their emissions as much as possible, including off-site facilities that will process ore from this project. The EIS should describe the equipment included in the system to condense, capture, and/or treat HAPs, including mercury, and reduce their emissions. It should also discuss how these measures are effective in removing HAPs and making it unavailable for release into the environment. The EIS should also note how any condensed or captured mercury would be recycled, sold, or disposed.

4. The EIS should discuss the likely fate and transport of mercury air emissions from the proposed project and describe the cumulative amount of mercury that is annually emitted to the air from gold mines in northern Nevada.

5. The EIS should describe the HAPs monitoring that would be conducted, including locations and reporting requirements.

Climate Change

EPA recommends that the EIS identify the cumulative contributions to greenhouse gas emissions that will result from implementation of the proposed project. In addition, we recommend the EIS discuss the potential impacts of climate change on the project. The EIS should also identify any specific mitigation measures needed to (1) protect the project from the effects of climate change

(e.g., changes to storm magnitude or frequency), (2) reduce the project's adverse air quality effects, and/or (3) promote pollution prevention and environmental stewardship.

Any sustainable design and operation measures that can be identified as reducing greenhouse gases should be identified in the EIS with an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if measures were implemented, and the EIS should indicate whether these measures would be required. Attention should be paid to explaining the quality of each greenhouse gas mitigation measure – including its permanence, verifiability and enforceability. We offer the following potential measures for the BLM's consideration:

- Incorporate alternative energy components into the project such as on-site distributed generation systems, solar thermal hot water heating, etc.;
- Incorporate recovery and reuse, leak detection, pollution control devices, maintenance of equipment, product substitution and reduction in quantity used or generated;
- Include use of alternative transportation fuels, biodiesel, electric vehicles, ethanol, etc. during construction and operation if applicable;
- Commit to using high efficiency diesel particulate filters on new and existing diesel engines to provide nearly 99.9% reductions of black carbon emissions.

Vegetation and Wildlife

1. The BLM should work closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Nevada Division of Wildlife to determine potential impacts of the project on plant and wildlife species, especially species classified rare, threatened, or endangered on either state or federal lists. The EIS should include the following information:

- Identify all petitioned and listed threatened and endangered species and critical habitat, as well as sensitive species, that might occur within the project area;
- Identify all species or critical habitat that could potentially be directly, indirectly, or cumulatively affected by each alternative;
- Discuss how surveys were conducted for each species, the findings of each survey, and all follow-up surveys and monitoring that would be conducted before, during, and/or after mining occurs;
- Include the biological assessment by reference or as an appendix, if one is prepared; and
- If a biological opinion is prepared by the USFWS, it should be summarized or included as an appendix in the Final EIS to demonstrate that the preferred alternative is consistent with the biological opinion.

2. The EIS should discuss the mitigation measures that would be taken to prevent exposure of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife to any toxic solutions or spills. If pit lakes would form after mine closure, an ecological risk assessment should be conducted, and the EIS should include a summary of its findings. The EIS should discuss the effectiveness of mitigation measures to protect wildlife, and indicate how they would be implemented and enforced. Describe maintenance requirements and monitoring to ensure their effectiveness.

3. The EIS should identify non-jurisdictional wetland and riparian habitat as well as other

unique or important habitat areas that could be affected by each alternative, and describe their functions and values and the acreages likely to be affected. Specifically, the EIS should discuss the function and value of the Big Spring wetland for local wildlife and the potential adverse effects to these functions and values. The EIS should discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of losses or modification of habitat and plant and animal species composition, and address opportunities for improving the quality and quantity of these areas in designing facilities. Mitigation should be implemented in advance of the impacts to avoid habitat losses due to the lag time between the occurrence of the impact and successful mitigation. We recommend that the EIS include a detailed mitigation plan, such as that recommended in "Waters of the U.S." above, for replacement of important habitat adversely affected by the proposed project.

Mine Closure and Reclamation

1. The EIS should describe and discuss the following components of mine reclamation:

- A detailed account of measures that would be taken to decommission mine operations and stabilize and revegetate slopes, waste rock facilities, heap leach pads, tailings, roads and other areas;
- Identification (including estimated acreage) of the areas targeted for reclamation, and description of the intended degree of treatment in each area;
- Estimation of any irrigation requirements;
- Timing of reclamation relative to mining operations and duration of reclamation treatment;
- Standards for determining and means of assuring successful reclamation; and
- Means of assuring that all maintenance required for reclaimed areas would continue after operations cease or while operations are suspended.

2. The EIS should describe the availability, properties, and sources of growth medium, discuss how growth medium would be applied to disturbed areas, and identify any additional measures (e.g., amendments) that may be needed to ensure successful reclamation and revegetation of the project site.

3. We recommend that revegetation be accomplished with only native species indigenous to the area in order to restore the ecosystem to as natural a state as possible after mine closure. We also recommend that revegetation success be monitored and enforced for at least five years following revegetation efforts. First or second year success in meeting the revegetation standards is not necessarily indicative of long-term success.

4. The EIS should describe the reclamation and closure of the heap leach pads, waste rock piles, and other facilities, including capping/covers, drain down facilities, chemistry and fate of drain down fluids, and projected drain down times. The EIS should describe in detail how drain down fluids from leach pads would be captured, treated, and/or controlled over the closure and/or post-closure period. If the project would involve the use of evapotranspiration cells to handle heap leach drain down during heap closure, the EIS should describe the design and operation of this system. The EIS should discuss the fate and transport of cyanide and the other constituents in the heaps over the course of closure and post-closure, and address the ecological risks posed by the

evapotranspiration cells.

5. EPA recommends that the EIS discuss the reclamation bonding requirements and amounts for the proposed project and alternatives. The viability of the bond can be a critical factor in whether a project is environmentally acceptable. Therefore, this information should be disclosed in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS should also discuss how BLM can modify the bond during the course of operations if temporary, long-term, or perpetual treatment and/or remediation needs are discovered during operations. In addition to determining the actual cost of reclamation, the bond calculation should consider the extra expense of taking over reclamation at a critical time during operations, such as when the water balance is high and surplus water must be treated, or when environmental or reclamation measures have not been successful in controlling pollution and must be redone. The EIS should describe bonding requirements and other measures that BLM and State regulators have in place to ensure funds would be immediately available should the mine operator or its insurer be unable to fund the required reclamation or closure activities.

6. We recommend that the EIS discuss provisions that would be made under each alternative for post-operation surveillance to ensure that site closure and stabilization have been effective. Describe the mitigation actions that would be taken should destabilization or contamination be detected, and identify who would be responsible for these actions.

7. The Draft EIS should also discuss whether long-term post-closure monitoring and management of the mine may be necessary to ensure protection of resources such as groundwater and surface water quality. The Draft EIS should describe these activities, indicate the projected costs for these activities, and discuss any requirements BLM would impose on the mine operator to establish a trust fund or other funding mechanism to ensure post-closure care, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.552(c). The EIS should describe all long-term, post-closure monitoring and management measures needed to protect surface water and groundwater from seepage and/or leachate from waste rock, pit wall rock, leach piles, stockpiles, and other mine facilities. The EIS should describe the implementation monitoring procedures, as well as enforcement mechanisms by either BLM or other appropriate regulators should the mine operator fail to properly follow the plan. The Draft EIS should also indicate the projected costs for these activities, and discuss any requirements, such as 43 CFR 3809.552(c), that BLM or the State regulator would impose on the mine operator to establish a trust fund or other funding mechanism to ensure post-closure care.

8. The financial assurance necessary to fund all post-closure activities must be kept current as conditions change at the mine, and the permitting agency should ensure that the form of the financial assurance does not depend on the continued financial health of the mine operator or its parent corporation. The Draft EIS should include a general description of the long-term funding mechanism that BLM would require. The mechanics of the fund are critical to determining whether sufficient funds would be available to implement the post-closure plan and reduce the possibility of long-term contamination problems. The discussion in the Draft EIS should include the following information:

- Requirements for timing of payments into the trust fund;
- How to ensure the trust fund would be bankruptcy remote;

- Acceptable financial instruments (such as those specified in 43 CFR 3809.555);
- Tax status of the trust fund;
- Identify the trust fund beneficiaries; and
- Identify the operator with responsibility/liability for financial assurance at this site.

If the potential impacts of the project would necessitate a long-term trust fund, EPA believes this information is essential in the Draft EIS because it could make the difference between a project sufficiently managed over the long-term by the site operator, or an unfunded/under-funded contaminated site that becomes a liability for the Federal government. In the absence of an appropriate guarantee, EPA could consider a project unacceptable if it could result in unmitigated impacts exceeding environmental standards on a long-term basis.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice addresses disproportionate adverse impacts of federal actions on minority and low-income populations. The EIS should identify minority and low-income populations, and address whether the alternatives would cause any disproportionate adverse impact, such as displacement, changes in existing resources or access, or community disruption. The document should also explore potential mitigation measures for any adverse environmental justice effects. The EIS should describe the measures taken by the BLM to: (1) fully analyze the environmental effects of the proposed Federal action on minority communities and low-income populations; and (2) present opportunities for affected communities to provide input into the NEPA process. The EIS should state whether the analysis meets requirements of your agency's environmental justice strategy.

Government-to-Government Consultation

We recommend that the EIS discuss BLM's consultation with all Native American tribal governments that could be potentially affected by the proposed project or may have resources (e.g., traditional cultural properties, groundwater resources) that could be affected. The principals for interactions with tribal governments are outlined in an April 29, 1994, presidential memorandum and Executive Order 13175, dated November 6, 2000. It is important that formal government-to-government consultation take place early in the scoping phase of the project to ensure that all issues are adequately addressed in the Draft EIS.

Land Use

If the project area is currently grazed, the EIS should describe the potential impacts to livestock grazing in the project vicinity and discuss whether reduction in forage would necessitate a reduction in livestock grazing in the area for the duration of the project and/or after mine closure and reclamation. Identify any other special uses that would be displaced by the proposed project and discuss the proposed project's specific potential impacts to these uses.

Pollution Prevention

Pursuant to the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990,

“pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible; pollution that cannot be prevented should be recycled in an environmentally safe manner, whenever feasible; pollution that cannot be prevented or recycled should be treated in an environmentally safe manner whenever feasible; and disposal or other release into the environment should be employed only as a last resort and should be conducted in an environmentally safe manner.”

There are significant opportunities for industry to reduce or prevent pollution at the source through cost-effective changes in production, operation, and raw materials use. Such changes offer mining companies substantial savings in reduced raw material, pollution control, and liability costs as well as help protect the environment and reduce risks to worker health and safety. We recommend that BLM and the mining company actively pursue better pollution prevention techniques to prevent or reduce pollution at the proposed mine.

Cumulative Impacts

According to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, a cumulative impact is “...the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.” [40 CFR ' 1508.7].

Cumulative impacts analyses are important to the EIS as they describe the threats to resources as a whole. Understanding cumulative impacts can illuminate opportunities for minimizing those threats. The EIS should describe the potential cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project and alternatives, as well as the methodology used to assess them. Guidance on how to analyze cumulative impacts has been published by the CEQ¹ and EPA.² In addition, you may also wish to refer to http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/cumulative_guidance/purpose.htm. This cumulative impact guidance was prepared by the California Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and EPA Region 9 for transportation projects in California. However, the principles and the 8-step process in this guidance can be applied to other types of projects, both within and outside of California. We recommend the principles and steps in this guidance to other agencies as a systematic way to analyze cumulative impacts for their projects.

¹Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality, January 1997. <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/ccenepa/ccenepa.htm>

²Consideration of Cumulative Impacts in EPA Review of NEPA Documents, U.S.EPA, May 1999. <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/nepa/index.html>

We have the following recommendations for structuring cumulative impacts analyses:

- The description of the affected environment should focus on each affected resource or ecosystem. Determination of the affected environment should not be based on a predetermined geographic area, but rather on perception of meaningful impacts and natural boundaries.
- Focus on resources of concern, i.e., those resources that are at risk and/or are significantly affected by the proposed project, before mitigation. Identify which resources are analyzed, which ones are not, and why;
- Identify all other on-going, planned, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area, not just mining projects, which may contribute to cumulative impacts. Where studies exist on the environmental impacts of these other projects, use these studies as a source for quantifying cumulative impacts;
- Include appropriate baselines for the resources of concern with an explanation as to why those baselines were selected; and
- When cumulative impacts occur, mitigation should be proposed. Clearly state who will be responsible for mitigation measures and how mitigation implementation will be ensured.

Categorized Comments from Public Comment Letters

As described in **Section 2.2**, comments were categorized by subject. **Table D-1** explains the categories used in **Table D-2**, which contains the issues and concerns identified in the public comments above.

Table D-1 Comment Categories

Code	General Issue Category
ALT	Alternatives to Proposed Action (development or additional)
AQ	Air Quality
CR	Cultural Resources
CUM	Cumulative Effects
ECO	General Ecological Resources
EJ	Environmental Justice
GEO	Geology and Minerals
HAZ	Hazardous and Solid Waste Materials
INF	Request for additional information
LST	Add to mailing list
LUA	Land Use and Access
MISC	Miscellaneous
MIT	Mitigation, Environmental Protection Measures, Design Features
NAC	Native American Concerns
NEG	General comment, negative, non-substantive
NS	Noise
OOS	Out of scope
PA	Proposed Action
PAL	Paleontological Resources
PN	Purpose of and Need for Project
POS	General comment, positive, non-substantive
PRO	Process (comments referring to scoping or NEPA process)
REC	Recreation
RNG	Livestock Grazing (including rangeland health, grazing, wild horses and burros)
SAF	Public Health and Safety
SD	Special Designations (including wilderness, WSAs, ACECs, DWMAs, etc.)
SOIL	Soil Resources
SOC	Socioeconomics
SSS	Special Status Species (plants and animals)
TRAN	Transportation
VEG	Vegetation (not including listed or sensitive species)
VR	Visual Resources
WHB	Wild Horses and Burros
WLF	Wildlife (not including listed or sensitive species) and Wildlife Habitat
WTR	Water Resources
RCL	Reclamation

Table D-2 Categorized Scoping Comments

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
SOC/VEG HAZ	NEWMONT HAS A POLLUTION RECORD ALL OVER THIS WORLD OF POLLUTING HORRIBLY AND STIFFING AND SCAMMING THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE NI AN AREA	1	1
WHB	The wild horses need this land	1	2
WTR	Water will be polluted with toxic chemicals so that this land will be scorched destroyed land	1	3
SOC	This expansion will allow for additional high paying jobs in a county that is providing opportunity for many Nevada families, plus it will bring badly needed property/ mineral/ use and sales taxes to the county, which will help ensure a steady income to meet the needs of its residents.	2	1
SOC	I have seen what mining has done for this community and “mining works” for the county.	3	1
SOC	The Board supports this project and the social and economic benefits it will bring to Elko County.	4	1
WTR/ WLF/ VEG	1. Mining, especially for gold, is just not as important as preserving ground water from contamination. 2. Mining is responsible for so much despoilation in the west; no more should be allowed. 3. The ground water must not be exposed to the inevitable and harmful effects of gold mining, spoiling the natural environment for the fauna and flora of the region---and that includes human beings, as well as their stock.	5	1
SOC	I believe and ask the BLM that the positive economic benefits of this project to the residents of the surrounding communities, counties, states, and the rest of the country should be evaluated and published.	6	1
SOC	This letter is being written in support of Newmont Mining Corporation of Elko. This company is a valued member of the greater community of Elko County. They are generous in contributing to various entities. They provide well-paying jobs to members of the community, provide their employees with various healthcare benefits, and are just a wonderful company to have here.	7	1
WTR	...the City of West Wendover received a grant from NDEP to complete a drinking water source protection plan...BLM acknowledge the DWSPP and committed itself to including it in the Resource Management Plan.	8	1
WTR	...Johnson Spring was included in Protection Zone 2 (PZ2) of the DWSPP. Along with Protection Zone 1, which is defined as a 100-foot radius around the spring, PZ2 represents a protection zone of the highest priority in which potential contamination sources must be either prevented, or managed properly to prevent contamination. In fact, recent data and analyses completed by the applicant and made available to the Cities show that the area comprising PZX2 should be much larger.	8	2
ALT/ WTR	The fact that much of the operation was clustered around the spring gave the committee much cause for concern. ...it appeared to some committee members that the applicant had not even considered the protection of Johnson Spring in its proposed PoO	8	3
WTR	...The applicant has proposed drilling a well in the Morris Basin, located on the east side of Goshute Valley approximately ten miles south of the Cities' existing Shafter Well Field. ...but there is no guarantee that a sustainable source of high quality drinking water equivalent to the spring is attainable there.	8	4

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
WTR	Even if there were guarantees that the groundwater resources in the Morris Basin were sustainable, the Cities' significant investment in the rehabilitation of the spring and replacement of miles of transmission pipeline brings with it, through financing conditions with the USDA, an obligation to utilize the improvements until the USDA loans are paid. Thus, replacing the spring is not just a matter of replacing its quality and flow.	8	5
ALT/ WTR	The applicant proposed to implement BMPs to protect the environment in the affected area, yet BMPs aren't foolproof. ...It is the opinion of the Cities that avoidance should be the preferred BMP incorporated into the proposed PoO to protect Johnson Spring.	8	6
WTR	The attached exhibit (Sheet 1) is a composite showing the proposed PoO project plan overlain by PZ2 of the DWSPP which shows the proposed open pit mine located partially within PX2. Other project facilities, such as administrative offices and maintenance facilities are proposed to be located entirely within PZ2.	8	7
WTR	Maintaining sufficient vertical separation between the static water level in the bedrock aquifer and the bottom of the pit is essential to protect the spring. ...The Cities recommends a minimum vertical separation of 200 feet. This would place the bottom of the pit at elevation 5900 MSL and provide a buffer between the highly disruptive mining activities proposed in the PoO and the bedrock aquifer.	8	8
ALT	Project Facilities within and near PZ2: ...there is no reason for the applicant to locate other project facilities within PZ2....even the cyanide heap leach facility, stockpile area, and landfills should be located east of the bedrock aquifer in the alluvial fill, not within the capture zone of the spring. The Cities recommend a minimum horizontal separation from the spring of 2 miles for any project facilities, other than the open pit mine, which is located above the bedrock aquifer.	8	9
WTR	The Cities are extremely concerned with the impact pumping the volume of water required from a well at this location [one mile south-southeast of Johnson Spring] will have on Johnson Spring.	8	10
ALT	...the Cities recommend the water supply well for the mine be located at least 4 miles south of Johnson Spring and the mine.	8	11
SOC	The Board of council strongly supports the project and hopes as development progresses, the City of Wells will prosper.	9	1
SOC	...the Long Canyon Project will add much-needed stimulation to the local economy by increasing the tax base of Elko County. Additional positive impacts to the local region will occur from providing employment at a time when much of the State and nation are suffering from loss of jobs.	10	1
SOC	The positive economic impact of this project on Wells and West Wendover in particular will bring much needed growth to those areas as well as to Elko and to the County. For West Wendover, the project allows diversification from their primary industry of gaming and will spur growth in many other areas of need. For Wells, the project also spurs growth in other areas of need such as retail, health care, etc. and diversifies their economic base.	10	2
VR	We do not believe there should be any requirements for the viewshed.	10	3
WTR	Though we believe generally the project is consistent with responsible mining activities in the region we do understand that there are potential water resource impacts related to the West Wendover Johnson Springs Water System and that mitigation measures with West Wendover are needed.	10	4
SOC	...the Long Canyon Project will add much-needed stimulation to the local economy by increasing the tax base of Elko County. Additional positive impacts to the local region will occur from providing employment at a time when much of the State and nation are suffering from loss of jobs.	11	1

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
VR	We do not believe there should be any requirements for the viewshed.	11	2
WTR	Though we believe generally the project is consistent with responsible mining activities in the region we do understand that there are potential water resource impacts related to the West Wendover Johnson Springs Water System and that mitigation measures with West Wendover are needed.	11	3
SD	I hope that the wilderness character of this land is not destroyed by the Long Canyon Mine.	12	1
WLF	what plan is there to protect the region's flora and fauna, migration patterns of wildlife, and spring water?	12	2
SSS	There may be sensitive species in the region that need protection as well.	12	3
AQ/ VEG/ WTR	How will gaseous emissions from all mines facilities and vehicles affect the environment?	12	4
PA	The project needs to have a restoration plan for all aspects of the mine including an alternative for backfilling of the open pit.	12	5
ALT/ REC	I would like to see the BLM examine how this project will affect recreation use in the area including solitude in the environment and hunting.	12	6
CR/ NAC	Does the project/BLM have any mitigation plans for the effects of mining on the historical and archeological artifacts of the region? Has the project and BLM consulted the Western Shoshone people? I understand also that the treaty of Ruby Valley is still in force and so if project is within land outlined in the Treat of Ruby Valley, mineral rights were reserved and therefore continue to belong to the Western Shoshone Nation. Please address this issue	12	7
CUM	The EIS should also examine how the various impacts of this new mine will add to the collective impacts of other ecosystem disturbing the projects in the region.	12	8
SD	I hope that the wilderness character of this land is not destroyed by the Long Canyon Mine.	13	1
WLF/VE G/ WTR	what plan is there to protect the region's flora and fauna, migration patterns of wildlife, and spring water?	13	2
SSS	There may be sensitive species in the region that need protection as well.	13	3
AQ	How will gaseous emissions from all mines facilities and vehicles affect the environment?	13	4
ALT/PA	The project needs to have a restoration plan for all aspects of the mine including an alternative for backfilling of the open pit.	13	5
REC	I would like to see the BLM examine how this project will affect recreation use in the area including solitude in the environment and hunting.	13	6
CR/ NAC	Does the project/BLM have any mitigation plans for the effects of mining on the historical and archeological artifacts of the region? Has the project and BLM consulted the Western Shoshone people? I understand also that the treaty of Ruby Valley is still in force and so if project is within land outlined in the Treat of Ruby Valley, mineral rights were reserved and therefore continue to belong to the Western Shoshone Nation. Please address this issue. We would also like the historical value of the surrounding area respected and protected. ...This is near the original Continental Railroad project and numerous historic sites along the various wagon train routes. We should not allow destruction of these areas. History cannot be restore once destroyed.	13	7
CUM	The EIS should also examine how the various impacts of this new mine will add to the collective impacts of other ecosystem disturbing the projects in the region.	13	8

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
ALT/ AQ	What are the milling plans for the ore? Please address the long term effects of transporting to existing milling operations or the impact of the construction of yet another mercury emitting and coal fired milling operation. The gray haze at ground level each day downwind from Valmy and Newmont's two additional coal power plants on the Horseshoe and TS Lazy Ranches is inexcusable!	13	9
SOIL	Minimize the Substantial Amount of Grading, Digging and Erosion that Will Forever Change the Natural Topography and Beauty of the Ecosystem.	14	1
SOIL	The project will use an estimated 4,000 acre feet of water annually during start up and 2,300 per year during operations which has the potential to cause substantial erosion and damage to the natural environment (Plan Page 31). However, the section on "Erosion and Sediment Control Measures" on pages 43-44 is only four sentences long and provides few specifics on the effective control of erosion at the site.	14	2
RCL	the Plan of Operations is vague on the specific reclamation measures and accompanying enforcement processes.	14	3
PA/ SOIL	Monitoring Processes Need to Be Implemented to Regulate Additional Drill Sites and Remediation of Past Drill Sites: ... The plan appears to give Newmont carte blanc to establish new drill sites that could greatly exceed the drilling and grading called for in the plan of operations. We ask that the BLM set up a process for approving and monitoring these drill sites, as well as the effective remediation of past drill sites to ensure that the company is not given free rein to drill as much as it wants without regard for the natural environment.	14	4
VEG	Reduce the Amount of Tree and Vegetation Removal at the Site Which Will Never Be Restored to Its Current Condition: The project states that its goal is to "minimize project-related impacts to vegetation and riparian zones" (page 43) and "reclamation and revegetation will be implemented as soon as practical for long term stability and erosion control." We ask that the BLM monitor this to ensure that this is in fact undertaken to a satisfactory level.	14	5
HAZ	Implement Safeguards and Mitigation Measures to Prevent the Pollution of the Natural Environment: The project calls for the use of a large number of hazardous chemicals, such as cyanide, sulfuric acid antifreeze, and solvents, but is vague and lacks specifics on what mitigation measures and enforcement processes will be used to ensure that these chemicals do not damage the environment and remediation activities that will take place in the event of a spill or leakage. The plan references two appendixes (Appendix C, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan and Appendix B, Emergency Response Plan) (Plan page 38) but these appendixes were not available online and no mention is made of monitoring and enforcement by the BLM to ensure that these plans are in fact followed and what enforcement mechanisms are in place in the event that they are not adhered to. We encourage BLM to implement and undertake effective safeguards to ensure that these pollution prevention plans are adhered to.	14	6

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
WLF	<p>Minimize the Disruption of the Natural Habit of Wildlife Species and Implement Monitoring Processes and Mitigation Measures to Achieve this Goal: The project plan states provides very few specifics on “wildlife mitigation” measures in only a few short paragraphs on page 59. What will be done if significant disruption is caused to wildlife habitats during the project? The plan notes that the “Big Springs ranch property will provide opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement” but this is a postage stamp-size plot compared to the impact area. What are the other wild life enhancement opportunities mentioned in the plan that are not elaborated on at all? Will these mitigation measures be sufficient and who will monitor them to ensure that they are undertaken?</p> <p>The plan also states that Newmont will internally monitor the project area on a weekly basis for the mortality of wildlife, but what will be done if mortality cases are encountered? Who will determine what is an acceptable level of mortality and what adjustments should be made to prevent additional deaths of wildlife in the area?</p>	14	7
RCL	Implement Restoration and Mitigation Measures to Restore the Site to Its Natural State: The Plan calls for Newmont to submit a “Reclamation Plan and Final Permanent Closure Plan” at some distant date that will outline reclamation activities (page 50). Given the substantial impact to the natural environment that this project has, we encourage the BLM to require Newmont to provide more specifics on what this plan will contain to ensure that enough is done to return the area to its natural state to the greatest extent possible. Page 67 says that Newmont will monitor the reclamation success but we are interested to know what will be done by the BLM to provide an independent check on Newmont’s evaluation of “reclamation success”? What will happen if Newmont fails to sufficiently remediate the area and implement its closure plan?	14	8
WTR	Concerns that I have include the excessive amount of water such a mine would use that is now important to wildlife in the area...	15	1
CR	Concerns that I have include ... the ancient archeological sites that could be disturbed by this activity.	15	2
WTR	the only reasonable approach is for Newmont Mining to drill new wells in an area where they believe that water would be available. This new source should then be proven with regard to flow and water quality. The next step would be to extract water from the Johnson springs area and test the flow rate and water level of the new Newmont drilled wells. Only after a proven water source of equal or better flow and quality has been established should the mining efforts be allowed to proceed. Cost, of course, is also a factor. A replacement source at a higher cost should be considered in the financial agreement. I do not believe that the project should proceed on good faith or promises as those will be worthless if a replacement water source has not been proven.	16	1
POS	The Wells Chamber of Commerce would like to voice our support for the long Canyon EIS. The Wells Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to working with the Long Canyon Project as it goes forward.	17	1
WTR	There needs to be an assessment of water use compared to available resources and existing water needs (both human and non-human; including vegetative), and potential impacts to Big Spring and Johnson Springs System – a local natural resource.	18	1

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
WTR	<p>A complete characterization of the surface waters and springs and an understanding of groundwater movement is needed. To achieve this end, at least one year of monthly samples followed by quarterly samples, as a baseline. There should have been recorded water level data in every exploration bore-hole collected. An adequate number of those boreholes should become monitoring wells and there should be a minimum 2 years of hydrologic baseline collected.</p> <p>Complete assay analysis is also needed to include Safe Drinking Water and Nevada Dept. of Environmental Protection standards.</p> <p>Changes in water dynamics need to be examined as to how local flora and fauna will be affected; potential loss of springs or changes in the water table, for example. Analysis must address whether the springs are on wildlife migratory routes, and, if so, how migrations will be affected.</p>	18	2
WTR	The geochemistry of waste rock, heap leach ore, and tailings must be thoroughly analyzed for potential acid production, including crystallographic analysis to determine the extent of fracturing expected upon blasting. In this regard the full range of static and kinetic tests need to be preformed: determine the NAPP and NAG values, for example. There must be a contingency plan accounting for markedly varying acid generation capacity as the mining proceeds that is not expected from preliminary testing.	18	3
PA/ RCL	There must be a reclamation plan that includes how the mine will deal with the occurrence of leaks in the waste water containment system; mill tailings pond, heap/leach, and waste rock.	18	4
VEG	Analysis of the potential loss of riparian areas is also necessary.	18	5
AQ	The ore and waste rock needs to be analyzed for mercury content. There needs to be a mercury capture plan with anticipated mercury emissions. Analysis of environmental impacts from expected mercury emissions is also needed.	18	6
AQ	discuss impacts from fugitive emission off of heap leach, tailings, and waste rock facilities. Work publicly presented in November 2009, measured these mercury emissions determining that they are not insignificant. Two mines were used in the study, Twin Creeks (Newmont) and Cortez-Pipeline (Barrick), where it was estimated that the fugitive emissions accounted for 19% (12 to 21%) and 17% (15 to 31%) of total at Twin Creeks and Cortez-Pipeline respectively. Thus, according to this analysis the increase in emissions due to fugitive emissions was calculated at 23% (13 to 27%) and 20% (17 to 46%) for the mines respectively.	18	7
AQ	GBRW does not accept any argument that these fugitive mercury emissions cannot be estimated and therefore are unknowable	18	8
AQ	discuss impacts from fugitive emission off of heap leach, tailings, and waste rock facilities. Work publicly Analysis and mitigation of other gaseous emissions (such as sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, etc.) from all mine facilities and vehicles is needed.	18	9
AQ	In light of pending regulations on carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) releases, the draft EIS should analyze the project's contribution to carbon dioxide and other significant greenhouse gas emissions.	18	10
AQ	The expected amount of airborne particles as dust or diesel vehicular emissions from all aspects of the project needs to be determined with concentrations for varying wind factors. Impacts of the "dust" should be evaluated for inhalation health impacts, visibility impairment, and resettling on surface water and vegetation. In the case of resettling on surface water there should be a chemical analysis of the dust to determine whether the dust could have an adverse effects on the chemistry of the water. In general, there needs to be a plan for dust control.	18	11

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
WLF/ SSS	A full inventory of the loss of plant and animal species, examining both estimated numbers and specie variation needs to be done as a result of land disturbance, waste rock, heal leach, and tailings coverage. In particular any sensitive species like Sage Grouse need to be thoroughly considered. It is our understanding that the Pequops range is home to a rare specie of snail, <i>O. strigosa depressa</i> , which is discussed by Mark L. Ports in a 2004 paper. ² An analysis of the impact to this specie should not be overlooked.	18	12
WLF/ SSS	according to the 2006 Scorecard of the Nevada Natural Heritage Program there have been citings of rare and at-risk plant and animals in the North Pequops...	18	13
AQ	Analysis should be done to determine whether the land disturbances could change the local microclimate.	18	14
WLF	An understanding of migratory routes needs to be resolved, and the impacts of the loss of these migratory routes from the various land disturbances should be addressed. ... BLM needs to produce a solid evaluation of the proposed mitigation strategy for this (and any other) migratory route including data of how similar mitigation methods have been effective elsewhere.	18	15
VR	There also needs to be an analysis of whether the loss of scenic views will affect economic and ecological viability of the area.	18	16
ALT/ RCL	A complete restoration plan for all aspects of the mine needs to be detailed. The draft EIS should contain an alternative for backfilling of the open pit. A plan for restoring the landscape to as close as possible to the pre-mining appearance should be developed. Again, due to the attractive character of the land the backfilling option needs to be fully explored. The reclamation plan should assume that people will at some point in the future will be in and around the open pit and thus they need to be at least reclaimed so they are not dangerous to human intrusion.	18	17
SD/ RCL	BLM must provide a detailed mitigation plan for impacts on wilderness character, and assure sufficient reclamation so that these lands will not be closed to wilderness study or designation in the future due to this mine project.	18	18
REC/ CUM	BLM needs to identify key recreational (especial non-motorized) areas that are in the cumulative impacts region of the project to determine strategies for mining that will not undermine the recreational aspects of the lands. One area we are aware of is the Six Mile Canyon, and there are undoubtedly other areas.	18	19
NAC/ CR/ CUM	The project area must be surveyed for historical and archeological artifacts, and mitigation plans must be developed for any of these sites.	18	20
CR	The BLM must analyze the cumulative impact to the ability of Native Americans to fully practice the traditional religions within the study area (at least as defined by the mines delineated on page two above). The analysis must include both known sacred and spiritual sites as well as traditional food and medicine gathering, important components of traditional practice.	18	21
NAC	In the event that the project is within land outlined in the Treaty of Ruby Valley, between the United States and the Western Shoshone Nation, mineral rights were reserved and therefore continue to belong to the Western Shoshone Nation. The use of "gradual encroachment" is not a legally valid method of title transfer or extinguishment under existing federal law or recognized standards of human rights. ...Thus, the project must seek consultation and permission from the Western Shoshone on their lands.	18	22
AQ/ CUM	could mercury emissions from the mine when taken together with other mercury sources in the region result in mercury exceedence according to the Clean Air Act.	18	23
VEG/ CUM/ NAC	does the mine disturbance further impair the regional ecosystem resulting in seriously threatening fauna and/or flora. The cumulative impact analysis needs to address cultural traditions as well, such as the pine nut harvest.	18	24

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
CUM	mining exploration on the west side of the range and given that Newmont has purchased extensive mining claims along the North Pequops it is highly likely that additional mining operations are possible. BLM must evaluate any potential for future mining and other projects and how the wilderness character of the lands would be affected, and if so, a mitigation plan that will allow these lands to be available for wilderness as they are now.	18	
SOC	analyze the positive impact of employment from 300-500 jobs (both direct and indirect) that will be provided by the Long Canyon project. In this period when the economy of the nation is ailing and is slow to recover, the potential for creation of high paying jobs with substantial benefits is badly needed.	19	1
WTR	The project would not have the potential to create acid drainage and alternative water sources for the Cities of Wendover and West Wendover can be provided to offset any impact the project may have on the Big Springs water source.	19	2
WLF	Observations made while working in and around minesites for a number of years indicate wildlife does utilize operating minesites extensively.	19	3
SD	I am concerned that such an operation would be detrimental to the `wilderness` characteristics of the Pequots. While not technically a designated `wilderness` are as such, the BLM has determined that the area has possess characteristics worthy of such protection.	20	1
SS/ WLF	To what extent will this sizeable project disrupt the fauna/flora of the Pequots, specifically that of mule deer, sage grouse and bats?	20	2
WTR/ WLF/ VEG	To what extent will the local water aquifers be depleted, thus adversely affecting the flora/fauna populations of the area?	20	3
SD	By allowing mining companies to radically alter...i.e. destroy... the integrity of such lands, not only denies future generations the chance to appreciate them, but points to the failure of federal agencies i.e. BLM/USFS to adequately defend and protect lands that by their very nature belong to all Americans.	20	4
SOC/ WTR	The City of West Wendover (City) has borrowed extensively (\$5.3 million) and has also received over \$1 million in grant funding from USDA Rural Development to make improvements to Johnson Spring, the Shafter well(s), and transmission lines from both sources to the City. The agency is concerned that if Johnson Springs is adversely impacted as a source of water, the City may have to contend with obtaining or being provided a different source of water with unknown quality or quantity. The agency has concerns that the City may permanently lose access to and use of what has proven to be a reliable, long-term source of high quality drinking water; further, the agency is concerned about retaining the quality of the water at the site, again forcing costs in either accessing a new source of water or more extensive treatment of Johnson Spring water.	21	1
SOC/ WTR	If the City has to utilize a new well source this will add additional operational costs that are not currently being incurred to obtain water from Johnson Springs. These costs, in addition to paying off debt for unused facilities, will place an economic burden on the City that will be passed along to the residents.	21	2
SOC	the City has had to borrow funds to develop many portions of its community infrastructure, not only its water system. West Wendover has incurred indebtedness with USDA Rural Development of over \$18 million across thirteen projects since 1995 for community facilities and infrastructure. Thus, not only may the effects of the mining operations force the City and its residents to pay more for potentially lesser quality water, or even force it to abandon facilities for which it must continue to repay debt, the City and its residents are already repaying a large amount of debt in which they have willingly invested to responsibly build their community.	21	3

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
SOC	An adverse impact to the community water system caused by the mining operations would negatively affect the City's ability to continue to grow and diversify its economy.	21	4
VR	Utilize consistent lighting mitigation measures that follow “Dark Sky” lighting practices.	22	1
VR	Utilize building materials, colors and site placement that are compatible with the natural environment	22	2
TRAN	A traffic study should be done for the interchange to check geometry at interchange for the mine traffic and other vehicles.	23	1
TRAN/ LUA	It appears that the relocation of CR 790 will remove NDOT’s access to Material Site EL 87-01 (E1/2 E1/2 NE1/4 Sec 10 T36N R66E). We use the county road in its current location for access. The map (Figure 7) seems to show the new location will not touch the material site.	23	2
TRAN/ PA	Is the eastbound off-ramp radius sufficient to accommodate equipment being moved to the site without changing the control of access opening width on the south side of IR-80? The existing control of access openings are 30’ according to my records. Increasing a control of access opening requires going through FHWA and may take time, and possibly will require permit payment of some sort.	23	3
TRAN	Can the structure underpass on SR-233 accommodate equipment being moved to the site from the east? If not, what is their alternate delivery plan? Access to project site from IR-80 is limited to existing interchange (control of access fence shall not be cut).	23	4
TRAN	New power line crossing IR-80 will need to be permitted if that power option is selected.	23	5
SAF	E2013-014 - Scoping - Long Canyon Mine Project may be subject to BWPC permitting associated with any of its discharges – including, but not limited to but not limited to well development, wastewater, Diminimis, UIC, and domestic sewage discharges.	24	1
CR	The SHPO supports the documents submitted at this time; however, this office suggests that any public scoping meetings should include a discussion of the recently executed MOA for Section 106 compliance with this undertaking.	25	1
WLF/ VEG	Every year thousands of Area 7 mule deer migrate from their summer ranges in the north to reach critical winter range habitat adjacent to the project boundary or further to the south where they will reside during the tough winter months. From the earliest conversations regarding this project location NDOW has voiced our concerns with this project impacting or interrupting access to and the use of seasonal winter ranges for mule deer. However, through the preliminary collaborative analysis Newmont and NDOW have made meaningful progress in identifying and incorporating un-impacted, naturally vegetated migration corridors through the Project boundaries.	26	1
WLF	Newmont’s funding assistance for a deer collaring project which is helping to refine the design of potential migration corridors and providing meaningful pre-project data that maybe used as part of a monitoring program. Incorporation of these measures in conjunction with concurrent reclamation and incorporation of the existing guidance supplied within the Area 6 Mule Deer Working Group Habitat Management Practices (copy to be supplied) will be key to minimizing mine related impacts to one of Nevada’s largest and most important deer herds.	26	2

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
WLF/ SSS	NDOW also has concerns with potential project related impacts to sage grouse and their habitats. The pending U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service listing decision of this species makes it imperative for all parties to make every effort to avoid and minimize project related impacts. Locating project facilities such as roads and structures in lesser quality sage grouse habitats, like pinyon – juniper and salt desert shrub zones, will help minimize significant impacts to sage grouse. Additionally, efforts to collar sage grouse will hopefully provide spatial use data to further evaluate project design possibilities and eventually propose the most meaningful mitigation for the bird.	26	3
WTR	...Newmont presently has no water rights appurtenant to the proposed Long Canyon Project which may be used for mining and milling purposes.	27	1
WTR	The priority of West Wendover's water rights, with Johnson Springs (also known as "Big Springs") as its source, is September 16, 1911. Simply put, certificated permit 28527, now in effect, authorizes West Wendover the first 1.0 cubic feet per second (cfs) emanating from Johnson, a/k/a Big Springs. The right cannot be conflicted with or impaired by any subsequent change of any other right from the same source. If a conflict were to occur, Nevada water law requires the Nevada State Engineer to regulate the sources based upon priority. The result would be a curtailment or stoppage of Newmont's pumping. Municipal water for the citizens of West Wendover takes legal precedent over changes to mining and milling uses.	27	2
WTR	A. Newmont has not indicated that water is available for its contemplated mining operations. B. Newmont has not state whether there will be impacts to public water supplies (Big Springs or Johnson Springs) or, if there are, how to mitigate them. C. Newmont has not indicated that it owns any water right that the Bureau of Land Management is required to confirm as suitable for mining purposes, and the impact when such rights are developed.	27	3
WTR	Newmont has not followed the statutory water permit proceedings, as set forth in Chapters 533 and 534 of Nevada Revised Statutes. ... 1. Newmont, assuming it acquired water rights from its predecessor in interest, has failed to comply with NRS 533.384(1)	27	4
WTR	2. Assuming Newmont has acquired water rights for its contemplated mining operation, it has failed to file applications to change, as required by NRS 533.325...	27	5
WTR	Newmont has no water rights with which to support its mining operation. The Plan of Operations should therefore be stayed pending completion of any and all water right issues, including a fully executed Agreement between Newmont and West Wendover.	27	6
WTR	West Wendover believes that it will be able to establish at an administrative hearing before the State Engineer that the contemplated development of water resources by Newmont would adversely affect and impair the surface water supply of West Wendover.	27	7
POS/ SOC	...the Project will make a valuable contribution to the local economy.	28	1
PRO	Were news releases for this proposed project provided for publication in the Reno newspaper (Reno Gazette Journal)? Why were public scoping meetings limited to Wendover, Wells, and Elko?	29	1
GEO	Are these claims lode, millsite, or placer?	29	2
PA	What is the legal description of the public lands initially involved in the proposed project. I would like a copy of a map showing the location of the proposed site and support facilities.	29	3

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
SOC	...the construction and operation of this mine will provide positive benefits to the Wells Colony community as well as to Elko County and state-wide tax revenues. Although it is too early to project the number of visitors and new residents (contractors and employees) to this area, we believe that the potential for spending will benefit our community as a whole.	30	1
SOC	This project would provide new job opportunities to the residents of the community as well as new individuals moving to the area resulting in the growth and strengthening of the local economy.	31	1
SOC/ WTR	...concerns regarding any negative impact to the community water supply and our employees and their families. We would request that the BLM carefully evaluate the replacement plan proposed by Newmont to insure that any alternate water source draws from a new, untapped aquifer providing like quality water that the Johnson Spring System currently provides.	31	2
VEG/WT F/ VEG/ AQ/ WTR	How do you propose to protect the wildlife, water, and flora and fauna? How do you plan to ensure that the egregious gaseous emissions from mine sites do not impact the human family? How will you protect the water, which is the life force of all creatures on this earth?	32	1
NAC	who you are contacting in the Western Shoshone region to consult with on areas of religious and cultural significance?	32	2
SOC	WFRC supports this project and looks forward to growing and expanding WFRC services to meet community needs based on projected population growth associated with the project.	33	1
ALT	The EIS should demonstrate that all reasonable alternatives to proposed actions have been examined and that appropriate mitigation measures have been thoroughly considered and incorporated into the project. The EIS should provide substantial detail on the means of implementing mitigation measures, and should also identify how monitoring would be established to ensure compliance and assess effectiveness of mitigation.	34	1
PRO	agencies are required to insure the professional integrity, including scientific integrity, of the discussions and analyses in the EIS. Any methodologies used should be identified, and the scientific and other sources relied upon for conclusions in the statement should be referenced.	34	2
PN	The EIS should include a clear description of the project's purpose and need.	34	3
ALT	rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, including reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of your agency...The EIS should discuss the alternatives in the context of the validity of claims and BLM's authorities under the Mining Law, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and other relevant statutes and regulations.	34	4
MIT	The EIS should thoroughly identify and describe appropriate mitigation measures associated with the project, specifying which ones would be committed to by the mine operator and/or required by the BLM or other federal, state, or local agency.	34	5
WTR	conduct a complete hydrologic characterization of the project vicinity and the cumulative impact area, describing all existing water resources and baseline groundwater and surface water quality, quantity, and flow regimes. Information on groundwater properties and groundwater/surface water connections...are needed to identify and assess potential impacts to water resources and risks to receptors of contaminants. ...identify any waters that are impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. ...specify any changes and analyze trends that could be attributed to past exploration or mining activities. Discuss groundwater adjudication in the project vicinity.	34	6

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
WTR	identify all sources of water needed for the project, and describe the potential environmental impacts associated with using these sources. ..describe pumping systems and estimate rates of dewatering and water use...identify direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to surface water flow, water supply wells, wetlands, springs and seeps, vegetation, wildlife, and other groundwater-dependent resources as a result of groundwater pumping.	34	7
WTR	describe post-closure groundwater elevation recovery and the time period in which groundwater quantity impacts are anticipated to abate. Based upon the March 2011 Plan of Operations for Surface Mining and Ore Processing for the Long Canyon Project, we understand that the proposed pit is not anticipated to intercept the bedrock aquifer in the project area. ..describe the potential to encounter perched or other shallow aquifers and rates of dewater required to prevent this water from entering the pit.	34	8
WTR	completely describe the pre-mining and current drainage patterns in the project area, as well as the projected drainage patterns (including post-closure drainage patterns) under each alternative. Include hydrologic and topographic maps of the project area and cumulative impact area.	34	9
SOIL	address potential effects of the project on erosion potential and sedimentation.	34	10
WTR	identify any components of the proposed project that would fall within 25- and 100- year flood plains. Discuss the potential for runoff to transport sediment or contaminants from disturbed areas at the mine to any surface waters.	34	11
WTR	describe applicable state-adopted, EPA-approved water quality standards, including beneficial uses, and discuss each alternative's compliance with these standards. ...describe and discuss the permits that would be required by state and federal agencies for water resources...	34	12
WTR	discuss the applicability of Nevada's General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity from Metal Mining Activities...include a storm water pollution prevention plan and discuss specific mitigation measures that may be necessary during operations, closure, and post-closure. Describe how the project will either achieve zero discharge or meet permitting requirements for discharges to surface waters.	34	13
MISC	Discuss whether an individual National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required for any phase of the mining project.	34	14
WTR	describe all existing and potential future surface water discharges from the project, including storm water and mine drainage, and include a map depicting locations of all discharge outfalls. ...describe the potential effects of all potential project discharges, seepage, diversions, and groundwater pumping on surface water and groundwater quality and quantity.	34	15
WTR	Discuss all the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to surface water and groundwater quality and quantity...during operations and after closure. For the proposed off-site ore processing, the EIS should assess the impacts to the off-site processing location. ..describe all potential project discharges, seepage, pit lake formation, diversions, groundwater pumping, evaporation from pit lakes, as well as the potential effects of these activities on water rights, beneficial uses, and wildlife.	34	16
PA	..describe all potential project discharges, seepage, pit lake formation, diversions, groundwater pumping, evaporation from pit lakes	34	17
WTR	discuss the potential for contamination of precipitation the contacts existing and proposed waste rock, heap leach pads, stockpiles, roads, and other mine facilities.	34	18
WTR	describe the projected chemical characterization of water in open ponds located at the site, including open pits if pit lakes would form following closure.	34	19

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
WTR	discuss the potential for and effects of movement of any contaminated surface water to the subsurface.	34	20
PA	describe the designs of the existing and proposed run-on/run-off channels, dams, seepage collection systems, collection and sedimentation ponds, pump back systems, and any necessary treatment or disposal of these solutions. Depict these facilities on a map.	34	21
WTR	Describe flow velocities of all discharges to surface waters and discuss whether these discharges could adversely affect these waters.	34	22
MIT	Describe mitigation measures to prevent contamination of water and sediment.	34	23
PA	Discuss how accidental releases of hazardous materials would be handled.	34	24
HAZ	Identify the potential impacts of failure of the solution containment systems, methods for discovering such failures, and the degree to which impacts would be reversible.	34	25
PA	Describe the mine's petroleum-contaminated soil management plan.	34	26
MIT	describe procedures for water quality and quantity monitoring and reporting as well as monitoring the functioning of the run-on/run-off channels, sedimentation ponds, and other mitigation measures at the mine. Describe all surface water monitoring locations, groundwater monitoring wells, and points of compliance on the site. Monitoring frequencies, screening intervals, and parameters to be monitored should be discussed.	34	27
WTR	geochemical testing performed...should be summarized in detail. ...discuss the geochemistry and acid generation/neutralization potential of waste rock, pit wall rock, ore and tailings. Describe the kinetic tests that have been conducted on ore and waste rock to characterize them, and provide the test results...include cross-sections showing locations of static and kinetic test samples and describe and discuss their representativeness...provide past and current monitoring results/trends for surface water and groundwater quality at the existing mines, and discuss their relevance in predicting potential for, and protecting against, contaminated drainage from existing and future mine facilities.	34	28
MIT	describe the measures that will be put into place to ensure that ground and surface water resources will be protected from contamination by both acid and non-acid related leachate.	34	29
WTR	describe the results of modeling and any additional fate and transport modeling performed for potential contaminated discharge from the project site.	34	30
MIT	monitoring should be in place to ensure that the water chemistry is not adversely affected or beneficial uses impaired by the mine.	34	31
MIT	include the Long Canyon Waste Rock Characterization Report as an appendix or provide an appropriate summary...describe all facility design features and control measures that would be implemented to protect against degradation of surface water and groundwater quality, and any additional mitigation measure that may be necessary should prevention measures fail.	34	32
MIT	describe procedures for monitoring the functioning of the waste rock dumps, stockpiles, and heap leach pads in controlling contact between this material and surface or meteoric water...Effective chemical and/or physical controls to prevent uncontrolled seepage through waste rock, wall rock, stock piles, and spent ore should be thoroughly analyzed.	34	33
MISC	coordinate with US Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the proposed project requires a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.	34	34
WTR	describe all waters of the US that could be affected by the project, including past impacts...include the acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters.	34	35
PA	All required Federal and State permits for work potentially affecting wetlands or waters of the US should be identified.	34	36

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
MIT	address opportunities for improving the quality and quantity of these resources... through appropriate facilities design	34	37
WTR	If a permit is required... permitted discharge into waters of the US must be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative available to achieve the project purpose. ...include and evaluation of the project alternatives in this context ...to demonstrate compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines.	34	38
WTR	if...dredged or fill material would be discharged into waters of the US, ...describe the potential environmental impacts and discuss alternatives to avoid or minimize these discharges.	34	39
MIT	if...dredged or fill material would be discharged into waters of the US, ...describe the potential environmental impacts and discuss alternatives to avoid or minimize these discharges.	34	40
MIT	if a discharge is permitted, required mitigation for impacts to waters of the US should be identified and committed to...	34	41
MIT	Mitigation should be implemented in advance of the impacts to avoid habitat losses due to the lag time between the occurrence of the impact and successful mitigation...Include the following: acreage and habitat type of waters of the US created or restored; water sources to maintain the mitigation area; revegetation plans including numbers and age of each species to be planted; maintenance and monitoring plans, including performance standards to determine mitigation success; the size and location of mitigation zones; parties that would be ultimately responsible for the plan's success; and contingency plans if the original plan fails.	34	42
AQ	describe existing air quality in the project vicinity. ... discuss the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increments applicable to air quality in the project area.	34	43
ALT	The EIS should demonstrate that all reasonable alternatives to proposed actions have been examined and that appropriate mitigation measures have been thoroughly considered and incorporated into the project. The EIS should provide substantial detail on the means of implementing mitigation measures, and should also identify how monitoring would be established to ensure compliance and assess effectiveness of mitigation.	34	44
AQ	estimate project emissions from all facilities and roads related to the mine's operations, including any off-site processing and support activities, such as vehicle traffic and delivery trucks for fuels, maintenance supplies, and other materials, as well as cumulative emissions from other sources in the project area. If additional exploratory drilling operations are to be included as part of the proposed project, the EIS should include the air emissions resulting from the construction and operation of these facilities, including those resulting from road construction and use. Modeling should be conducted to determine concentrations of criteria air pollutants for an accurate comparison with the NAAQS.	34	45
PA	discuss whether a PSD permit would be required for the proposed project. If a PSD permit is required, determine increment consumption as well. If a PSD permit would not be required, the EIS should indicate whether the baseline date has been triggered for minor sources in the project area. Once the minor source baseline date has been triggered for a certain pollutant in a specified area, all emissions from minor sources of that pollutant consume increment.	34	46
AQ	discuss impacts to the NAAQS and PSD increments from projected emissions of the project and alternatives, considering the effects from all aspects of mine excavation, construction, operation, and support activities, such as vehicle traffic, as well as cumulative emissions from other sources in the project area. BLM should closely coordinate with NDEP regarding regulatory requirements and controls.	34	47

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
AQ	identify all Class I PSD areas located within 100 kilometers of the proposed project site. Class I areas even further away could potentially be affected as well. BLM should consult with the U.S. Forest Service for a determination of which areas could be adversely affected by the proposed action. Potential impacts to Class I PSD areas, including visibility impacts, should be discussed.	34	48
MIT	<p>discuss mitigation measures to minimize air pollutant emissions from the mine. Conventional fugitive source controls include water application or use of chemical binders or wetting agents on roads and stockpiles, and revegetation of disturbed areas. Additional measures exist that could be used to control PM10 emissions, as well as diesel particulate matter (DPM) and other criteria pollutants, from fugitive sources at the mine. We recommend the following additional emissions reduction measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use particle traps and other appropriate controls to reduce emissions of DPM and other air pollutants. Traps control approximately 80 percent of DPM, and specialized catalytic converters (oxidation catalysts) control approximately 20 percent of DPM, 40 percent of carbon monoxide emissions, and 50 percent of hydrocarbon emissions; • Minimize construction-related trips of workers and equipment, including trucks and heavy equipment; • Lease or buy newer, cleaner equipment (1996 or newer model); • Employ periodic, unscheduled inspections to ensure that construction equipment is properly maintained at all times and does not unnecessarily idle, is tuned to manufacturer's specifications, and is not modified to increase horsepower except in accordance with established specifications. 	34	49
MIT	discuss whether and how air quality monitoring would be implemented to ensure project compliance with all applicable air quality standards and permits	34	50
AQ	thoroughly describe all potential impacts associated with this action, including analysis of the additional pollutant emissions related to this activity and whether these emissions could result in exceedance of air quality standards.	34	51
HAZ	estimate releases of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), including mercury, from the proposed project to air, soil, or water resources, including any off-site facility where ore may be processed.	34	52
PA	list major processing equipment, including any autoclave or roaster, stripping units, electrowinning units, retorts, refining furnaces, and carbon regeneration kilns. ...detail all possible sources of HAPs and the unit processes that generate this material.	34	53
PA	discuss how all HAPs would be controlled to reduce their emissions as much as possible, including off-site facilities that will process ore from this project. ...describe the equipment included in the system to condense, capture, and/or treat HAPs, including mercury, and reduce their emissions. It should also discuss how these measures are effective in removing HAPs and making it unavailable for release into the environment. The EIS should also note how any condensed or captured mercury would be recycled, sold, or disposed.	34	54
AQ	discuss the likely fate and transport of mercury air emissions from the proposed project and describe the cumulative amount of mercury that is annually emitted to the air from gold mines in northern Nevada.	34	55
MIT	describe the HAPs monitoring that would be conducted, including locations and reporting requirements.	34	56

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
AQ	EPA recommends that the EIS identify the cumulative contributions to greenhouse gas emissions that will result from implementation of the proposed project. In addition, we recommend the EIS discuss the potential impacts of climate change on the project. The EIS should also identify any specific mitigation measures needed to (1) protect the project from the effects of climate change (e.g., changes to storm magnitude or frequency), (2) reduce the project's adverse air quality effects, and/or (3) promote pollution prevention and environmental stewardship.	34	57
MIT	<p>sustainable design and operation measures that can be identified as reducing greenhouse gases should be identified in the EIS with an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if measures were implemented, and the EIS should indicate whether these measures would be required. Attention should be paid to explaining the quality of each greenhouse gas mitigation measure- including its permanence, verifiability and enforceability. We offer the following potential measures for the BLM's consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate alternative energy components into the project such as on-site distributed generation systems, solar thermal hot water heating, etc.; • Incorporate recovery and reuse, leak detection, pollution control devices, maintenance of equipment, product substitution and reduction in quantity used or generated; • Include use of alternative transportation fuels, biodiesel, electric vehicles, ethanol, etc. during construction and operation if applicable; • Commit to using high efficiency diesel particulate filters on new and existing diesel engines to provide nearly 99.9% reductions of black carbon emissions. 	34	58
MIT	discuss the mitigation measures that would be taken to prevent exposure of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife to any toxic solutions or spills. If pit lakes would form after mine closure, an ecological risk assessment should be conducted, and the EIS should include a summary of its findings. The EIS should discuss the effectiveness of mitigation measures to protect wildlife, and indicate how they would be implemented and enforced. Describe maintenance requirements and monitoring to ensure their effectiveness.	34	59
VEG MIT	identify non-jurisdictional wetland and riparian habitat as well as other unique or important habitat areas that could be affected, and describe their functions and values and the acreages likely to be affected. Specifically, the EIS should discuss the function and value of the Big Spring wetland for local wildlife and the potential adverse effects to these functions and values. The EIS should discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of losses or modification of habitat and plant and animal species composition, and address opportunities for improving the quality and quantity of these areas in designing facilities.	34	60
PA	describe the availability, properties, and sources of growth medium, discuss how growth medium would be applied to disturbed areas, and identify any additional measures (e.g., amendments) that may be needed to ensure successful reclamation and revegetation of the project site.	34	61
MIT	We recommend that revegetation be accomplished with only native species indigenous to the area in order to restore the ecosystem to as natural a state as possible after mine closure. We also recommend that revegetation success be monitored and enforced for at least five years following revegetation efforts. First or second year success in meeting the revegetation standards is not necessarily indicative of long-term success.	34	62

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
MIT	The EIS should describe the reclamation and closure of the heap leach pads, waste rock piles, and other facilities, including capping/covers, drain down facilities, chemistry, and fate of drain down fluids, and projected drain down times. The EIS should describe in detail how drain down fluids from leach pads would be captured, treated, and/or controlled over the closure and/or post-closure period. If the project would involve the use of evapotranspiration cells to handle heap leach drain down during heap closure, the EIS should describe the design and operation of this system.	34	63
HAZ	The EIS should discuss the fate and transport of cyanide and the other constituents in the heaps over the course of closure and post-closure, and address the ecological risks posed by the evapotranspiration cells.	34	64
SOC	discuss the reclamation bonding requirements and amounts for the proposed project and alternatives. ...The Draft EIS should also discuss how BLM can modify the bond during the course of operations if temporary, long-term, or perpetual treatment and/or remediation needs are discovered during operations. In addition to determining the actual cost of reclamation, the bond calculation should consider the extra expense of taking over reclamation at a critical time during operations, such as when the water balance is high and surplus water must be treated, or when environmental or reclamation measures have not been successful in controlling pollution and must be redone. The EIS should describe bonding requirements and other measures that BLM and State regulators have in place to ensure funds would be immediately available should the mine operator or its insurer be unable to fund the required reclamation or closure activities.	34	65
MIT	discuss provisions that would be made under each alternative for post-operation surveillance to ensure that site closure and stabilization have been effective. Describe the mitigation actions that would be taken should destabilization or contamination be detected, and identify who would be responsible for these actions.	34	66
MIT	discuss whether long-term post-closure monitoring and management of the mine may be necessary to ensure protection of resources such as groundwater and surface water quality. The Draft EIS should describe these activities, indicate the projected costs for these activities, and discuss any requirements BLM would impose on the mine operator to establish a trust fund or other funding mechanism to ensure post-closure care, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.552(c). The EIS should describe all long-term, post-closure monitoring and management measures needed to protect surface water and groundwater from seepage and/or leachate from waste rock, pit wall rock, leach piles, stockpiles, and other mine facilities. The EIS should describe the implementation monitoring procedures, as well as enforcement mechanisms by either BLM or other appropriate regulators should the mine operator fail to properly follow the plan. The Draft EIS should also indicate the projected costs for these activities, and discuss any requirements, such as 43 CFR 3809.552(c), that BLM or the State regulator would impose on the mine operator to establish a trust fund or other funding mechanism to ensure post-closure care.	34	67

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
MIT	<p>The financial assurance necessary to fund all post-closure activities must be kept current as conditions change at the mine, and the permitting agency should ensure that the form of the financial assurance does not depend on the continued financial health of the mine operator or its parent corporation. The Draft EIS should include a general description of the long-term funding mechanism that BLM would require. The mechanics of the fund are critical to determining whether sufficient funds would be available to implement the post-closure plan and reduce the possibility of long-term contamination problems. The discussion in the Draft EIS should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for timing of payments into the trust fund; • How to ensure the trust fund would be bankruptcy remote; • Acceptable financial instruments (such as those specified in 43 CFR 3809.555); • Tax status of the trust fund; • Identify the trust fund beneficiaries; and • Identify the operator with responsibility/liability for financial assurance at this site. 	34	68
MIT	If the potential impacts of the project would necessitate a long-term trust fund, EPA believes this information is essential in the Draft EIS because it could make the difference between a project sufficiently managed over the long-term by the site operator, or an unfunded/under-funded contaminated site that becomes a liability for the Federal government. In the absence of an appropriate guarantee, EPA could consider a project unacceptable if it could result in unmitigated impacts exceeding environmental standards on a long-term basis.	34	69
EJ	The EIS should identify minority and low-income populations, and address whether the alternatives would cause any disproportionate adverse impact, such as displacement, changes in existing resources or access, or community disruption.	34	70
NAC	discuss BLM's consultation with all Native American tribal governments that could be potentially affected by the proposed project or may have resources (e.g., traditional cultural properties, groundwater resources) that could be affected.	34	71
LUA	the EIS should describe the potential impacts to livestock grazing in the project vicinity and discuss whether reduction in forage would necessitate a reduction in livestock grazing in the area for the duration of the project and/or after mine closure and reclamation. Identify any other special uses that would be displaced by the proposed project and discuss the proposed project's specific potential impacts to these uses.	34	72
MIT	We recommend that BLM and the mining company actively pursue better pollution prevention techniques to prevent or reduce pollution at the proposed mine.	34	73
CUM	The EIS should describe the potential cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project and alternatives, as well as the methodology used to assess them.	34	74

Code	Comment	Letter	Comment
CUM	<p>We have the following recommendations for structuring cumulative impacts analyses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The description of the affected environment should focus on each affected resource or ecosystem. Determination of the affected environment should not be based on a predetermined geographic area, but rather on perception of meaningful impacts and natural boundaries. • Focus on resources of concern, i.e., those resources that are at risk and/or are significantly affected by the proposed project, before mitigation. Identify which resources are analyzed, which ones are not, and why; • Identify all other on-going, planned, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area, not just mining projects, which may contribute to cumulative impacts. Where studies exist on the environmental impacts of these other projects, use these studies as a source for quantifying cumulative impacts; • Include appropriate baselines for the resources of concern with an explanation as to why those baselines were selected; and • When cumulative impacts occur, mitigation should be proposed. Clearly state who will be responsible for mitigation measures and how mitigation implementation will be ensured. 	34	75

08/08/2012

Long Canyon ID Team Meeting

Bryan Fuell –BLM
John Stefka –Newmont
Dan Anderson –Newmont
Al Czarnowsky –Newmont
Kendra Olcott –JBR
Sara Thorne –JBR
David Worley –JBR
Josh Vittori –JBR
Jenni Prince Mahoney –JBR
JoeyJames Giustino –BLM
Victoria Anne –BLM
Nycole Burton –BLM
Matt Werle –BLM
Whitney Wirthlin –BLM
Jeff Moore –BLM
Aaron Hoberg –JBR
Brian Buck –JBR
Cameo Flood –JBR
Kristi Schaff –JBR
Caleb McAdoo –NDOW
Alan Jennie –NDOW
Tyler Stokes –BLM
Mark Dean –BLM

- Field tour canceled for BLM
- Wells scoping meeting tonight
- Specialist interaction after lunch

Introductions

Overview of Project (Dan)

- Most of baseline information was gathered before plan was submitted. New procedure prior to submission of PoO. Very well thought out and contributions from agencies prior to submission.
- No acid generation. Limestone deposit. Above water table. Open pit. Oxide ore deposit. No sulfides. Waste rock storage designed to hold whole capacity of the pit. Higher standards for design, limiting height to control sloughing and pit failure.
- Deer corridor: a mule deer migration corridor was added to the design features of the proposed mine Plan; there will also be concurrent reclamation to increase the width of the corridor. Elongated waste dump, added corridor to facilitate deer migration.
- Non-traditional construction. Not going to dump over edge, build from bottom up. Concave slope. Corridor widens as project proceeds. Planted with Pinon and Junipers.
- Springs and upwellings were considered during the planning of where to place facilities. Moved facilities south of source protection area per Wendover's request. Mill and heap leach pads.
- There will be mill, heap leach pads, and tailings facility within the proposed Plan boundary. No crushing during heap leach. Tailings are several miles south of area, post crushing and processing.
- Sage grouse: sage grouse habitat and lek locations were considered during the placement of facilities, most importantly the tailings and heap leach pad
- Noise at tailings minimal, noise surveys are being conducted
 - May not be an issue to lek. No hauling, but noise survey are being completed to conduct modeling for levels at the lek
- Two barrow pits (clay for sub-lining) location have been identified within the Plan boundary.
- Lining systems for tails
- Barrow pits may be reclaimed as a wetland feature to enhance habitat since excavated below the water table.
- Powerlines/upgrades/powerplant in Wells
 - Existing lines, upgrade, from Idaho Power substation north of Wells. Upgrade from Oasis into site.
 - Pipeline from Ruby Valley pipeline, 35 miles north of project for natural gas power generation on site.
 - Natural Gas powerplant in wells. Lines from Wells to site.
 - No preferred actions yet
 - Considerations to environment
 - A decision from Newmont will be made in October

- Pipeline technology is advanced to reduce impact on environment
- Pipelines: no baseline of alternatives and environmental of pipelines yet, so these will need to be completed after the determination is made for a power source.
- Right of ways need to be considered and planned for.
- Employment: there will be roughly 300-400 workers during construction and 300-500 during operations starting 2017. Closure 100 people over 10-14 years.
- 8-10 year mine life with active exploration throughout that time frame
- After a decision, it is estimated that there will be 2 years of construction prior to actual operations, with a potential start date of 2016-2017
- Cities of Wells, Wendover, and West Wendover
 - Wendover and West Wendover share a drinking water source in the project boundary (Big Springs). Working with Wendover to identify alternative sources so as to take over Big Springs during operations.
 - Working to identify alternatives to avoid putting too many “straws in the same cup”
- Questions?
 - Victoria – Housing issues?
 - Dan – Impact studies to determine. Not released yet. Focus groups to identify issues. Housing was brought up, both temporary and permanent. Wells is excited for the increase in housing. Wendover and West Wendover are better from land perspectives and subdivisions and are more prepared for growth. In Wells, contractors building spec homes.

Round Table Discussion

- Main concerns and issues from specialist present

NEPA-Victoria Anne

- Need to review EIS format and will discuss with NEPA specialist at JBR after meeting.

Lands-JoeyJames

- Powerlines: need to determine what the power source will be for the mine and what associated documentation needs to be provided, including baseline studies
- Roads: Will existing roads be used and what new roads are planned
- SF 299 Plan of Development will need to be submitted for any new Right of Ways that will be associated with the Plan. This will include the application, as well as acreage and baseline surveys associated with disturbance
 - Concerns
 - Wildlife surveys
 - Mitigations-But can always amend
 - Dan kept in touch with county concerning Right-of-Way in regards to access roads
 - Alternatives?
 - Need for county Right-of-Way in future
 - West Wendover at Springs
 - SF 299 page 2 (pre-NEPA) in regards to county
 - Road alternatives
 - Can get Right-of-Way near power line SWIP North?

- FLPMA
 - Right to co-locate within corridor
- Natural gas power production
- All concerns will be rolled into the EIS. NEPA concerns should be covered via the surveys and baselines.

Dan – Natural Gas brought to site

- Good alternative
- Choices for trucks as well as power for site

Wildlife-Nycole Burton

- This is different than normal. Discussions on wildlife have been occurring for a long time. Identified species of concern already.
- Wildlife working group – issues hashed out before any plan is presented. Huge benefit towards moving forward and addressing resource concerns/mitigation.
- Deer – Migration and important locations and paths of movement
 - Movements tracked via collars
 - Redesigned site for winter migrations mitigation. Helping to maximize mitigation impact.
- Sage Grouse Lek
 - Modification to heap Leach location
 - Baseline studies
- Baselines for Wildlife are going to be able to be built upon.
- Modifications have been done prior to EIS
- Concentrating on nuances for EIS
 - Concise strategies concerning specific species
- Wildlife way ahead, and work has been done prior to project kickoff
- Refine environmental protection actions?
 - Modifications for noise have already been completed. Still need baseline for noise values. Consider the values for time/areas.
 - Concentration on Southern Wetlands mitigation plan to help Sage Grouse brood/hens. Consider nuts and bolts of these plans
- Ranch
 - Riparian enhancement of the Wetlands
 - 50,000 acres owned by Newmont
 - Benefit domestic and mine exploration
 - Improve wildlife, water, and wetlands to historic levels
 - Opportunity to tie in plans for ranch with some of wildlife enhancements
 - Enhance sage grouse habitat statewide as a Newmont existing strategy
- Issue with pygmy rabbits. Lake terrace next to ranch south of ranch. Non textbook habitat. Ephemerals of lake bed.
 - Can see distribution in vegetation mapping
 - These burrows might be seasonal. Need to get some periodic observations to get impact ideas for different times of year.
 - Keep an eye on their movements throughout the year.
- Long Canyon within Bighorn Sheep repopulation habitat NDOW. Not an issue yet.

Archaeology and Cultural Resources-Matt Werle

- High site density
- Sites occur near water sources
- Over 30 sites, mitigation phase 1
- Completed expansionary survey on flats
- 70 eligible sites
- 30 done, 30 sites for phase 2, and some possible for phase 3
- Programmatic Agreement to be done soon. Nice to be done before PoO submitted.
- EIS concerns
 - Monitoring plans over life of mine
 - Powerlines – capture extra surveys
 - Barrow pits
 - Additional infrastructures

Range and Vegetation-Jeff Moore

- Issues
 - Take existing ranch out of agricultural production.
 - Relocating ranch headquarters to keep base property
 - Agricultural areas – south to near pivots are base property for permits
 - Relocate base property to other place on ranch
 - Need to identify new area for forage or hay production covering all animals on property, or 2 months on Elko district
 - Identify how many BLM AUMs on permit, how many won't be available because of mine. Reduction in grazing permit for that loss of forage.
 - Range improvements effected. Look at compensation for loss of interest in range of improvements.
 - Fences, water developments, etc. on public land that will be lost if there are private interest.
 - Removal of Elk Fence?
 - Too early to tell
 - Range planning/landscape planning won't need it. Considering removal.
 - Bryan Fuell - Could transfer HQ almost anywhere as long as it meets grazing requirements
 - Can still use if grazing acres meet measurability requirements
 - Might not need to move base property. Will be evaluated as plan goes forward.
- Vegetation
 - Nycole -Butterfly and Buckwheat
 - Wildlife/vegetation
 - Continued studies
 - Population is not static
 - Need a follow-up study since baseline was last conducted. To fill in gaps on distributions.
 - Pinion and Juniper
 - Reclamation phase is when a lot of the issues will come up

- Not a lot of success with reseeded near fans
- West vs. East slopes
- Different slope aspects
- Could simulate West side of Pequops in Long Canyon itself
 - Fire rehab areas show good reseed results after 3 years
 - Soils and elevation factor largely into reseeded the areas
- Nursery on site – focusing on collecting seeds to establish nursery for reseeded.
- Active seeding
- 6 mile canyon- pine bark beetles not near site
 - Will address with forest service
 - Concerns about wood stockpile and keeping infestation contained if present

Hydrology and Soils-Mark Dean

- Soils
 - New disturbance
 - Describe all from all proposed sources
 - Analysis on reclamation potential for success
 - Wildlife revegetation
 - Reference materials in document
- Air
 - Unclassified air basin
 - Protocol ready to go
 - Climate change to be discussed
 - David Jones Air Quality lead for state
 - Power generation
 - Beyond title 5?
 - no
- Water
 - Surface and Ground
 - Issues
 - Wendovers' water supply
 - Include proposed agreements
 - Additional mitigations included if brought up.
 - Drinking water for the cities
 - Diversion(s) storm-designed
 - Riparian area impacts from pumping around Big Springs/Johnson
 - Barrow pits
 - Evaporation
 - All included
 - Long Canyon Spring? Discussion will take place later.
 - No identified issues
 - Newmont - Should have no impacts from mine construction
 - There is a monitoring well up near the spring

- Flow calculations, perched aquifer filled from seasonal range snows
 - Perched spring
- Geochemistry
 - Ongoing studies
 - Completed waste rock drain-down geochemistry models
 - No major issues thanks to lack of sulfides
 - Info forwarded to EPA
- 3 members not present
 - Matt Murphy (out on fire)
 - Zack Pratt
 - Brian Mulligan (out on fire)
- Contact list (Kristi)
 - Contact sheets handed out during meeting
 - JBR has BLM contact info
 - BLM has JBR info
 - Keep in contact
 - Keep Whitney and Kristi in the loop as cc's; they will help facilitate information flow
 - If there is any trouble getting in contact with another member, get in touch with Whitney or Kristi
 - JBR staff will be reviewing all data to determine if there are any data gaps.
 - Group emails

Brian Buck

- Communication between BLM and JBR
 - JBR to talk directly to counterparts in BLM and vice-versa
 - Keep records of correspondence and make available to all parties as needed
 - Management communication every 2 weeks
 - JBR to talk to Brian Buck and/or Kristi
 - BLM to talk to Whitney
 - Open communications to facilitate easy flow. Don't want everything to *have* to go through Whitney
 - FTP site set up
 - Communication issues with Newmont
 - Keep track of folder versions
 - BLM will have files on shared drives; links via email if something is not working
- General Path Forward
 - Scoping – Meetings currently going on
 - Scoping summary report
 - Issues, statements, etc. Described and gone into detail
 - Comment period ends in September. Report released in Sep.
 - Following release of reports

- Alternative planning/studies
 - Described October/November
 - Chapter 1 of EIS
 - after alternatives Fall/Winter 2012
 - Chapter 2
 - Out by Fall/Winter 2012
 - ID Team
 - Review of Preliminary EIS Draft
 - Spring 2013
 - Refining project schedule
 - Decide when 508 compliance is completed?
 - JBR doing 508 compliance. Conversions and setup. Cannot submit 508 to EPA, needs to be sent by BLM.
 - Individual wanting to include items will provide the alt text provided from figure/ photo source
- Questions
- Review schedule, share when done. JBR committed they will keep the schedule. Plenty of time to be ready for documents.
 - Set timeframe, try to get good turnarounds
 - Charge codes?
 - Cost Recovery
 - Whitney will take care of
 - Tracking the costs and times
 - NDOW has compensation of public utilities projects set up for Powerline cost recoveries. Need to be kept up to date on those issues
 - Cooperating agencies?
 - Army Corps of Engineers?
 - Permits from them
 - Find jurisdictional issues
 - Discussion of site trip – JBR staff going to field even though ID team isn't going. Good to see the site. Field trip needs to be limited to allow for public meeting in Wells.
 - Meet team member counterparts after break in small specialties groups

JBR Internal Scoping Meeting Notes 08/08/2012 – Recorded by CFlood

Field tour cancelled for BLM today, will reschedule. Instead will meet with JBR counterparts after lunch.

Introductions

Whitney, Aaron - air (BLM), Brian, Cameo, Kristi, Caleb (NDOW), Allen NDOW, Tyler (BLM), Mark Dean (BLM), Victoria (BLM), Nycole, Matt Werle (BLM).

Dan did a short introduction to the project for the team.

Lands and Realty issues - transmission lines and roads, SF299s and PODs for ROW, connected actions on the infrastructure. Sarah Ferrera is the land laws examiner, receives and checks the applications. Will include all applications in EIS 43 CFR 4300. Unsure what discussions with Elko County on the county road will bring. Newmont could get the ROW the county uses transferred to Newmont if that makes sense. All easements across private lands must be received before BLM can grant a ROW. May co-locate ROW from other projects in existing corridor SouthWest Intertie Project (SWIP).

Wildlife Issues - Has already been a lot of discussions between BLM and Newmont on wildlife issues before the PoO was submitted. NDOW, Newmont, BLM has a wildlife working group that hashed out the locations of facilities to protect wildlife. Mule deer, key species, migration route from Jarbidge to critical winter range. Have some movement tracking. Waste rock dump was designed to mitigation movement.

Sage Grouse lek not far from the southern end of the mine boundary. Heap leach pad was redesigned. But may need EPMs for noise.

Baseline on wildlife is done.

Don't anticipate alternatives for wildlife, just nuances and tweaks, and maybe some additional data collection.

Pygmy rabbit may become an issue.

Bighorn sheep reintroduction on the schedule in the Pequop Mountains.

Cultural Issues - many sites have been located and mitigated as part of the exploration and expect more sites for the mine plan. About 70 eligible sites have been located, 30 have been excavated, there will be a phase ii and phase iii excavations. A Programmatic Agreement is in the works. EIS issues will be monitoring plan throughout the mine life on sites that won't receive treatment, baseline on any additional facilities (powerline). BLM developing mitigation plan with the cultural resource contractor.

Range Issues - Mine will take the ranch out of agricultural production. Where is the ranch headquarters going to be located, may affect the base property for the grazing permit, for example if it affects the irrigation. Base property must be capable of producing hay or other crop to meet the base property requirements to support the livestock on the permit for at least 2 months. Another issue is how many AUMs will not be available because of the mine facilities. This will cause a reduction in the grazing permit. Will need to identify any range improvements that will be affected by taking the land out of production. May result in payment to the permittee for a loss of investment - not private lands only the BLM lands (water developments, etc.). Dan

says the elk fence will probably be removed since there won't be any need for it. Base property can be located somewhere off the ranch.

Vegetation Issues - Buckwheat is "somewhere". May need more baseline because it was originally done in 2009. Newmont is collecting seed to set up a nursery on site for reclamation (pinyon, juniper, mahogany, bitterbrush).

Bark beetle infestation, might suggest not storing cut wood in the area.

Soil issues - new disturbance needs to be accurately described (transmission, roads), reclamation potential for success. Cross reference with vegetation and wildlife.

Air Quality issues - unclassified air basin, model protocol is ready to go, climate change, work with the State air quality lead (David Jones). Power plant would not trip the Title V permit (according to Dan based on potential to emit).

Water Quality issues - Wendover/West Wendover water supply, include all the agreements as part of the design features. Drinking water. Surface water diversions designed to handle storm flow. Could affect the riparian area as a result of pumping and disturbance, borrow pits may create new ponds, evaporation. Long Canyon Spring - no issues identified don't anticipate any impacts.

Geochemistry Issues - Fate and transport modeling and draindown chemistry predictive models have been completed. No issues because of lack of sulfides. Report has been forwarded to EPA.

New rec planner will be on board in September.

Communications

BLM/JBR specialists should talk directly. CC project management. Include Whitney and Kristi on requests for tracking purposes.

JBR will be reviewing existing data and will notify BLM of data gaps.

Whitney has an internal email distribution list set up.

If there are bigger issues, Whitney or JBR management should be notified so it can be discussed on the bi-weekly conference call. Staff will be invited on the call when appropriate.

Whitney will forward FTP site information to BLM staff team members. The FTP site should be used to transfer files for reviews. Version control will be discussed.

Path Forward

Currently scoping. Will close out scoping with a scoping summary report that will include issues. Expect summary out in September 2012.

JBR/BLM will coordinate with Newmont on alternatives. Expect to finalize alternatives by November.

Chapter 1 will proceed following scoping report. Chapter 2 will be completed after alternatives finalized. Both completed for BLM review by the end of the year.

Preliminary draft EIS should be available in spring 2013 for BLM review.

JBR will be doing 508 compliance.

Victoria will handle all the web questions.